

كلنا من فلسطين

Murphy arrives in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived here Sunday from Baghdad for talks with Syrian officials on the prospects for Middle East peace. Western diplomatic sources said Mr. Murphy, on a Middle East tour since April 13, is investigating Arab proposals for reviving talks on an Arab-Israeli settlement. He has so far visited Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Iraq and is expected to go later to Saudi Arabia. Diplomats said Syria would talk "politely" to Mr. Murphy, but would give him "nothing." State-run Damascus Radio said last week that Mr. Murphy would hear from Syrian officials exactly what he had heard in previous visits. "Our firm stance will never change."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Major resistance attack reported

AMMAN (J.T.) — The "Lebanese Resistance front" announced Sunday that one of its men carried out a suicide attack on Israeli occupation troops in South Lebanon and at least 120 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in the early morning attack, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from Beirut. It quoted a statement issued by the front as identifying the suicide bomber as Malek Wahbi, who, according to the statement, drove a truck loaded with 1,000 kilograms of TNT into an Israeli convoy composed of four armoured personnel carriers, four tanks and an unspecified number of vehicles near the eastern entrance to the Qasbiyeh Bridge that links Sidon with Tyre. The Israeli army denied the report and said they had no information of such an attack on Sunday. But the French News Agency (AFP) reported the sound of large explosion in the area and said it could not obtain more details immediately.

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Sultan Qaboos arrives tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Court announced Sunday that Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id of Oman will arrive on April 23 for a state visit of several days. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Sultan Qaboos would participate in the April 25 inauguration of a new ferry link between Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nuweiba. His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will officially open the line in two ceremonies, one in Nuweiba and the other one in Aqaba later in the day, officials quoted by Reuters said.

Tindemans due here on May 1

AMMAN (Petra) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans is due here on May 1 for an official visit expected to last two days. During the visit the Belgian minister will hold talks with Jordanian officials on developments in the Middle East region and relations between Jordan and Belgium.

Israelis kill 2 civilians in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Israeli soldiers shot dead two people when they fired on civilians trying to cross into Israeli-occupied territory in South Lebanon, security sources said. They said one of the bodies was recovered from the Litani River forming part of Israel's occupation lines after the incident Saturday morning.

Arafat arrives in Dhaka today

DHAKA (AP) — Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrives here Monday on a three-day state visit at the invitation of President General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, the Foreign Office announced Saturday. The announcement said the two leaders will exchange views on subjects of common interest but gave no details. Diplomatic sources here said the Middle East problem and the 54-month-old Iran-Iraq war would be discussed. Mr. Arafat, who also visited Bangladesh in 1981 and 1983, will be accompanied by high PLO officials, the announcement said.

Israeli cabinet approves free trade agreement

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli government approved on Sunday a free trade pact with the United States which will open the two countries' markets to each other's goods without tariff barriers. Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin said. The decision made at the weekly cabinet meeting, was the last step necessary before the two countries sign their agreement on the free trade zone. Israel Radio reported that the agreement would be signed in Washington on Monday by Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and by the U.S. commerce secretary. But it pointed out that the agreement would not come into force until after the year because it has not yet been approved by Congress.

Ali, Rifai brief King on results of joint committee meetings

Jordanian-Egyptian statement outlines programmes to boost bilateral relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Sunday Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who conveyed to him greetings from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak wishing him continuing success in the leadership of the Jordanian people towards further progress and prosperity.

Mr. Ali, who arrived here Saturday on a three-day visit, and Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai briefed the King on the results of meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee and the achievements it made upon the directives of King Hussein and President Mubarak aiming at serving the common interest of the two peoples, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. Attending the meeting, which was held over a working dinner, were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as members of the two sides in the joint committee.

Later on Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan held talks with Mr. Ali and Egyptian Agriculture and Food Security Minister Youssef Wali in a meeting attended by Mr. Rifai. Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Wahbe later hosted a dinner at the Intercontinental hotel in honour of the visiting Egyptian delegation headed by Mr. Ali. Meanwhile, the committee con-

cluded its meetings in Amman Sunday by issuing a press statement summarising decisions and recommendations reached covering bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, tourist, agricultural, manpower, information and other fields.

Following is the text of the press statement: "The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee held a meeting in Amman on April 20 and 21, 1985, under the co-chairmanship of Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali."

The meeting is considered as an embodiment of an agreement between His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak and a reaffirmation of the importance of bolstering relations between the two countries. The committee reviewed achievements made so far, which emphasise the seriousness of the joint action and its implementation by both countries for the sake of fulfilling the aspirations of the Egyptian and Jordanian people. The two sides have fulfilled achievements that be-

came a concrete fact, representing a new reality that benefits both countries and stands out as a good example for cooperation among other Arab countries.

In the field of trade, the committee has revised what has been achieved of the trade protocols signed in 1984 and 1985, and the bank credit facilities that had been opened to facilitate their implementation. The committee decided to take measures to speed up the execution of a balanced trade transaction agreement that was signed in 1984 which is worth \$110 million and decided that institutions in both countries be granted powers to carry out its implementation.

The committee discussed proposals for developing trade exchange between Jordan and Egypt and increasing the volume of trade in 1986 to \$250 million, shared equally, and increasing the volume steadily in the future.

The committee recommended the removal of all obstacles impeding the flow of products between the two countries and decided to sign an agreement to organise the payment in accordance with an affiliated agreement to be signed between the central banks of Jordan and Egypt.

In the field of economy and technical cooperation the committee decided to sign a trade and economic and technical cooperation agreement which will serve as an umbrella for all activities in these fields, and agreed in principle to establish a joint \$50 million-capital company shared equally by each side.

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (left) and Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali (Petra photo)

Israel sets June 1 as deadline for final pullout from Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday set June 1 as the date for the final withdrawal of Israel's troops from Lebanon, a government minister said.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal disclosed the date to reporters following an eight-hour cabinet meeting.

The vote to approve the timing of the final pullout was 17 to 3, government officials said.

The Israeli armed forces radio reported that the government also agreed on the establishment of a "security" zone in South Lebanon following the withdrawal.

It gave no details about its size or the extent of any future Israeli direct involvement in the area.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is known to favour an eight to 15 kilometre deep buffer zone patrolled by the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia and local Shi'ite mil-

itias. Hardline cabinet members, such as former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, have said the belt is insufficient to provide "security" for northern Israel.

Israeli news media said Mr. Rabin was proposing that SLA militiamen and local "home guard" militias take over individual villages inside the proposed zone. Mr. Sharon has said Israel should keep control of a zone stretching at least 30 kilometres north of the border.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces began dismantling key military installations in the South Lebanese port city of Tyre Sunday and witnesses quoted by the Associated Press said the troops appeared ready to pull out from the zone "at any moment."

Lebanese reporters in Tyre said Israeli troops also were burning

documents and blowing up equipment they did not plan to take back.

The reporters said the Israelis were seen moving boxes from their main military intelligence headquarters.

A convoy of 70 Israeli army trucks arrived in Tyre from the border town of Naqoura Sunday morning to pick up troops and gear, they said.

Israeli military sources have said the army is about to complete the second stage of the withdrawal, a pullout from eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley — where Israeli troops face the Syrian army — and from Tyre.

The Cabinet decided in principle on a withdrawal in January amid rising Israeli casualties from resistance attacks which have surpassed that of the Palestinians during the 34-month occupation.

Iraq cites 4 conditions to end Gulf war

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has set out four conditions for ending the Gulf war with Iran, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Sunday. These were a ceasefire, a troop withdrawal to international borders, an exchange of all prisoners and direct or indirect negotiations between the two countries.

Negotiations should be based on the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, President Hussein told a meeting Saturday in Mosul, 400 kilometres north of here.

The people of Iraq and Iran should live freely on their respective lands and both countries should play a positive role in the stability and peace of the region, he said.

He said Iraq had told United Nations and other officials Iraq considered these principles to be just and to meet its rights without harming Iran's rights.

President Hussein said Iran was still refusing and insisting on war. "They are massing their troops once again. But we tell them their fate will be pitch black and if they try again (to attack), they will reap nothing but defeat and disgrace."

A Defence Ministry weekly, Al Yarmouk, said Sunday Iraq was preparing a big "surprise" for Iran and the present lull on the Gulf war front would not last long.

The silence on the war front was "the silence that precedes the hurricane," it said.

"Iraq's previous surprises such as blockading Iranian ports, raiding Tehran and (launching) missile attacks were far less than the great surprise that will bring peace," the weekly said.

On Saturday Jordan said Iran had completed preparations for a new offensive against Iraq and warned "against this aggressive Iranian trend in spite of international and regional intercession to end the conflict, and of Iraq's acceptance of these peace missions."

A Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying that information available to the Jordanian government indicated that the Iranians were preparing for the offensive.

Marlboro cigarettes go on sale in Jordanian market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Marlboro cigarettes can now be legally bought for 500 fils a packet from specified shopping stores in the Kingdom after an agreement was reached with Philip Morris Inc., producers of the brand.

Foreign cigarettes were first introduced to the Jordanian market by the Ministry of Supply last November but were limited to Winston, Rothmans and Kent, which were considered very popular among Jordanian smokers.

Marlboro cigarettes, one of the most popular brands here, were not introduced in November for two reasons. First, the manufacturing company considered the Jordanian market as very small and limited. Second, the company had already given import rights to a local agent who was awaiting a government lift on the ban on foreign cigarettes to import the brand.

The labels also say: "Smoking results in lung cancer and heart diseases." It is signed by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Supply has reportedly reached an agreement with the manufacturing company and the local agent under which the agent would split sales profits with the government, informed sources told the Jordan Times.

They said the manufacturing company was not very anxious to introduce its product to the Jordanian market as Marlboro were already made available through smugglers. Illegally imported Marlboro were sold for prices reaching up to 650 fils a packet.

The sources said Philip Morris Inc. would not be selling much more Marlboro cigarettes in Jordan than it was already selling.

The imported Marlboro cigarettes now in the market carry a label saying "Specially imported for Jordan." The other foreign brands carry a label saying "Imported for the Ministry of Supply."

The labels also say: "Smoking results in lung cancer and heart diseases." It is signed by the Ministry of Health.

Syria invites Lebanese Muslim leaders for talks

BEIRUT (R) — Syria has invited Lebanese Muslim leaders for talks in Damascus to try to heal a split caused by a bloody inter-militia street battle in west Beirut last week, caretaker Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Sunday.

Socialist, Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim religious and political leaders had been invited to the meeting, to be held on Tuesday, he said.

"Fighting between brothers is unacceptable... we call for a correction of the sad situation which exacts a high price from national unity," Mr. Karami told reporters.

Mr. Karami, who resigned after Tuesday night's 15-hour battle in the mainly Muslim sector of the capital, said after returning from talks in Damascus on Friday that Syria had promised measures "to correct the situation."

Following a briefing by Mr. Karami, Sunni leaders issued a statement Saturday saying they were keen "to rise above wounds inflicted when Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shi'ite 'Amal' militia badly beat mostly Sunni Murabitoun fighters during the battle."

No details have emerged so far of what steps Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon since the Beirut government adopted a pro-Syrian stance a year ago, might take.

Sources in the mainly-Druze PSP and the Amal movement blamed last week's battle on Palestinian loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, a bitter Syrian foe.

There is no evidence that Palestinian factions were involved, though individual Palestinians may have fought.

Mr. Karami wants all militia out of the streets and the army to take control. The PSP and Amal last week set up a 300-man "strike force" to patrol west Beirut.

Murabitoun leader Ibrahim Koleilat, in exile since the PSP defeated his fighters in street battles early last year, has suggested his movement would retaliate.

Beirut's press quoted him as saying: "Our... eclipse will help us reorganise effectively to crush the plot aimed at Beirut, its inhabitants and the Murabitoun."

Dissident Amal leader killed in Beirut, page 2

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives the credentials of four newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan. The four new ambassadors are



(clockwise): Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zinchenko, Nigerian Ambassador Haj Al Gombi, Portuguese Ambassador Lewis Ferreira and Finnish Ambassador Jurki Aimonen (Petra photo)



Non-aligned states urge isolation of S. Africa

NEW DELHI (R) — Delegates from the Non-Aligned Movement Sunday adopted a declaration calling for the isolation of South Africa and demanding an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council over Namibia (South West Africa).

The declaration noted with grave concern vetoes exercised by Western states which it said had prevented the U.N. Security Council taking effective measures against Pretoria.

Condemning South Africa's plan to set up an interim government in Namibia, the declaration said that if South African transgression persisted, the only option was comprehensive, mandatory sanctions.

Delegates from 89 states attending the extraordinary meeting in Delhi of the movement's coordinating committee on Namibia urged U.N. member states to cut all links with Pretoria.

Pending imposition of mandatory sanctions, the declaration said measures should include severance of diplomatic relations, imposition of an oil embargo, a policy of disinvestment, and a strict sports and cultural boycott.

The Delhi meeting called on all non-aligned and U.N. states to intensify diplomatic and military aid to the South West African Peoples Organisation, the group waging a guerrilla war against South Africa's control of the territory.

44 killed, 53 injured in Philippines cinema fire

LEGASPI, Philippines (Agencies) — At least 44 people were killed and more than 50 injured Sunday when a fire set off by an explosion swept through a cinema, police said.

The fire, at Tabaco in the central Philippines, spread quickly through the cinema on the second floor of a shopping arcade.

"People jumped out of the windows and some were trampled upon by others fighting to get out of the burning cinema," police Colonel Cesar Averilla told Reuters. Only two died of burns.

More than 22 people had been admitted to four hospitals and others allowed to leave after receiving first aid.

Some 800 people were packed into Cinema-2 when the fire broke out and at least six children under 10 were among the dead. The Philippine News Agency (PNA) said most people died near the exits and on the staircase of the cinema.

Police said the fire gutted only one theatre but people in an adjacent one, which apparently was more crowded, panicked too when they heard the screams next door. He said initial investigation showed the fire was triggered by an explosion that investigators thought was the result of faulty electrical wiring.

He replied, "I don't think so" when asked if there was a possibility the explosion was that of a bomb.

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Sudanese army impatient with bickering politicians

KHARTOUM (R) — The patience of Sudan's army coup leaders may be fraying as, with problems of famine and rebellion looming large, political bickering in Khartoum frustrates forming a caretaker civilian cabinet.

Western diplomats said General Abdul Rahman Swaroudah, 51, the army leader who ousted President Jaafar Numeiri on April 6, seemed keen to give politicians a chance to resolve differences on a cabinet which he says is to govern under army supervision for a 12-month transition period.

But they said others in a 15-man military council might favour an army-imposed solution and measures to regulate political activity if deadlock persists.

The problems are awesome in the near-bankrupt African nation of 22 million inhabitants.

Gen. Swaroudah, asking the world for more famine relief, said Saturday a million children in Sudan might starve to death.

On Thursday, the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said in a radio broadcast it was renewing the guerrilla war in south Sudan, ending a brief truce with the army that followed the end of Mr. Numeiri's 16 years of autocratic rule.

The military has yet to react publicly to the apparent SPLA decision to spurn a Swaroudah offer of talks with John Garang,

the U.S.-educated dissident colonel who leads the insurgents, while one politician from the mostly non-Muslim, Christian and pagan south who knows Garang said the SPLA move puzzled him.

Party sources are vague when questioned by reporters on why it is taking so long to form an interim government. Diplomats say a list of names was submitted at one point, then withdrawn.

Politicians from the south clearly have problems.

Gen. Swaroudah last week addressed some of the grievances in the south that fuelled the rebellion. He said he would revise the implementation of the Sharia (Islamic Law) imposed by Numeiri in 1983 and rescind an unpopular Numeiri carve-up of the previously autonomous region into three.

Southern politicians objected that he still seemed to intend to leave the south divided until the end of the proposed 12-month transitional period of military-supervised rule.

But one of them, Peter Gatkuoth Gual, told Reuters the military had now agreed to meet this objection by proposing that a sin-

gle committee, based in Juba, should exercise overall guidance of southern affairs during the transition.

Mr. Gual said an offer of three cabinet jobs to the south, the home of five million Sudanese, was also not enough, although his group, a front called the Southern Sudanese Political Association, saw it as a first step.

But another southern faction led by university professors said it planned to submit a rival list of cabinet nominees and that Mr. Gual's group included ex-Numeiri collaborators.

Lam Akol Ajawin, an engineering lecturer, also objected to a soldier being made head of the Juba-based regional authority.

Among northern politicians, meanwhile, mutual charges of having collaborated with Numeiri were traded between the Communists and the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

Khartoum politicians said they judged Gen. Swaroudah sincere in pledging full civilian rule in about a year. But as the discord continued on an interim cabinet, some Sudanese thought the army might not be too sorry to let this illustrate to the man-in-the-street the futility of a political revival.

Two earlier bouts of civil rule ended in coups, with the army saying in 1958 and again in 1969 when Numeiri took power that party squabbling had made Sudan ungovernable.



ALI VISITS MONUMENT: Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali Sunday waters the 'tree of life' at the Martyrs Monument in Amman. Mr. Ali is on a three-day official visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Joint statement outlines programmes

(Continued from page 1)

exchanged according to the needs of both sides which will also exchange expertise in fisheries and veterinary medicine.

The committee decided to set up a standing committee to achieve coordination between development schemes of Egypt and Jordan and supervise the exchange of expertise in planning in general.

It also decided to carry out

the field of exchanging expertise and information in energy affairs and in prospecting for oil, increasing technical cooperation in scientific research between the Royal Scientific Society and the Egyptian Scientific Research Academy. It also agreed to increase telephone communications in channels between Egypt and Jordan and to draw up an executive programme to achieve this goal.

In the field of manpower, the committee reviewed what has been achieved and the Egyptian prime minister lauded Jordan's treatment of Egyptian nationals living in Jordan.

In the information field, the committee approved an agreement signed by the two sides aimed at achieving cooperation and coordination between them in television, radio and press and also aimed at establishing a programme of joint radio and television transmission.

Several agreements were signed Sunday, April 21, 1985 covering bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial, technical and cultural fields aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in addition to an agreement between businessmen from Jordan and Egypt (See page 3).

The committee agreed to hold its next meeting in Cairo in October of this year.

The final session was attended on the Jordanian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Industry and Trade Raja' Al Muasher, Minister of Transport Farhi Obaid, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad, Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan, Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hamami and a number of aides.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Saad Mohammad Ahmad, Minister of Information Safwat Al Sharif, Minister of Planning Ahmad Jazouiri, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Yusef Wali, Minister of Industry Mohammad Abdul Wahab, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Sultan Abu Ali, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Halim Badawi, Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh and a number of aides and specialists.

The Communists were Numeiri allies in the first two years of his rule but were purged in 1971 after being involved in one of several bids to oust him.

Numeiri escaped from a room where he was detained in the Republican Palace, rallied support and ruthlessly crushed the uprising.

Diplomats in the region say the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, with up to 15,000 guerrillas active in the south, has leftist leanings.

It has spurred peace talks, pledging to fight on until what it calls "a greedy minority" that has held power since independence is swept away.

Benjedid's U.S. visit opens new era in bilateral relations

By Lamis Andoni in Washington

WASHINGTON — The visit of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to Washington earlier this week, the first-ever by an Algerian leader to the U.S. since the independence of Algeria has opened a new era in American-Algerian relations, characterised by direct and stronger bilateral ties — a goal that both sides have sought but seem to have different concepts of.

For a while the American administration, as reflected in official and unofficial statements, anticipated that this development would reinforce Algeria as an emerging "moderate" state which could play a vital role in settling the "imbalances in North Africa and the Middle East through its influence" and "credibility."

The Americans base their concept of this development on a widely held assumption here that in recent years Algeria has gradually been shifting to more "moderate" policies and away from the revolutionary anti-American rhetoric which had characterised the post-independence years.

American officials insist that it is still premature to talk about an arms deal between the U.S. and Algeria. They say that enhancing closer political and economic relations with Algeria "which has the assets and influence in both North Africa and the Middle East" was a goal by itself.

The officials, however, do not rule out the possibility of American arms sale to Algeria if the latter asked for it but indicate that the American administration is interested in three aspects of relations with Algeria.

The three aspects relate to the anticipated Algerian role to push the peace process in the Middle East forward, the Algeria mediating role in the Gulf war and what appears to be the most important aspect to the U.S. administration to increase and strengthen trade and commercial ties between the two countries.

American officials stress that ever since President Benjedid assumed power in 1979 "Algeria has been steadily endorsing a moderate and more pragmatic political and economic policies, yet at the same time commanding influence and respect from Cairo to Syria."

The indicators of the Algerian moderation, according to the American view, were manifested in both economic and political policies which were adopted by the Algerian government over the last few years and upon which the American administration seem to pin a great importance when it comes to its evaluation of Algeria.

The American officials here point out the decrease in the number of Soviet military experts in Algeria over the last few years along with what they describe as the non-committed and "reconciliatory" approach endorsed by Algeria on inter-Arab differences and the Iran-Iraq war, and the Algerians "declining to

join a Syrian sponsored plan to revive the "Arab steadfastness and confrontation front" to fight the Jordanian-PLO accord, signs of the "emerging Algerian moderation."

The American administration is apparently hoping to gain a "respectable and credible friend in North Africa and the Middle East" which holds "important keys to solving the numerous and complex problems in both areas."

"Algeria has many assets and influences in these areas and we would like to enhance our relations and cooperation with it," said a government official a few hours prior to the arrival of Mr. Benjedid to Washington.

This comment seemed to stem up the American conception of future Algerian-American relations especially regarding efforts to lift the peace process in the Middle East off the ground.

But senior Algerian diplomats here said Algeria would make it clear during the talks it "will support any Arab political moves towards finding a solution for the Palestinian question provided such move or plan gains Arab consensus and would include all parties concerned including the PLO and Syria and all the different Palestinian factions."

An Algerian diplomat who agrees with the American analysis said the U.S. government knows that Algeria is still committed to its declared policies and that the Americans will be far from being wise if they expect a radical shift in Algerian policies.

"Strengthening the economic ties will not lead to an Algerian dependence on the U.S."

On the anticipated Algerian goals in the trade relations the diplomat said:

"So far all of our trade relations were conducted with private American firms some of which we had had experiences with."

He cited El Paso a Texan natural gas firm as an example. He said that El Paso has renewed on the initial agreement it signed with the Algerian government and cancelled the contract "we hope that we can reach a trade agreement with the U.S. government which would lay rules and regulations for our relations with American companies and would prevent such experiences like the one with El Paso to recur."

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Saad Mohammad Ahmad, Minister of Information Safwat Al Sharif, Minister of Planning Ahmad Jazouiri, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Yusef Wali, Minister of Industry Mohammad Abdul Wahab, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Sultan Abu Ali, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Halim Badawi, Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh and a number of aides and specialists.

Amal militia leader killed

BEIRUT (R) — A dissident militia leader of the Shiite Muslim Movement Amal was killed in west Beirut Saturday night. Security sources said Ali Ayoub, expelled from Amal last month for indiscipline, was killed in a clash with gunmen.

Militiamen of Amal's allies, the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), took to the streets and set up additional roadblocks.

Political parties back in business in post-coup Sudan

By Hamza Hendawi in Khartoum

KHARTOUM — "Welcome to Sudan which has become a haven of democracy," General Abdul Rahman Swaroudah told foreign journalists after he ended 16 years of autocratic rule by President Jaafar Numeiri.

A grey-haired career soldier, Swaroudah, 51, says the military will restore civilian rule in about a year.

As various factions re-emerge and contend, it is anybody's guess which direction the Afro-Arab country of 23 million people will eventually take.

The politicians will have to sort themselves out first. Some were banned, others jailed, exiled or courted then purged by Mr. Numeiri, whose Sudan Socialist Union SSD was the sole legal party until the military take-over.

Within hours of the April 6 coup, political parties suppressed by Mr. Numeiri hit the streets. Thousands of activists marched on General Command Headquarters demanding civilian rule. Banners proclaimed allegiances across the spectrum, from Communism to the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

Two weeks later, there are 36 political parties and 86 trade unions back in business. Party rallies are being held daily in Khartoum, reported uncensored by

official media. "Sixteen years of political suppression by Mr. Numeiri have curtailed the parties' activities but... here we are behaving as if we never stopped," said a party official.

Politicians say Gen. Swaroudah is sincere in pledging to take the army back to barracks.

Two days after the coup, which followed a general strike and riots against Mr. Numeiri, who was then in the United States, the army began talks with politicians on a civilian cabinet to run the country under military supervision for 12 months.

The military "are just not interested in perpetuating their rule. They are even keeping their ranks. They give the impression they are seconded from the armed forces for a temporary assignment," Sadek Al Mahdi of the Ummah Party told Reuters.

But heavy optimism among politicians and intellectuals is tempered by memories of pre-Numeiri experiments in democracy.

The army staged a coup under General Ibrahim Abboud just two years after independence from Britain in 1956, contending that party bickering made Sudan ungovernable.

A wave of unrest toppled Gen. Abboud in 1966 but renewed party squabbles meant that suc-

cessive governments failed to restore a crippled economy and end a bush war in mainly Christian and pagan south Sudan.

Another coup, in 1969, brought in Numeiri, then a young colonel and admirer of the late Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt, whose first act was to make peace in the south.

Also bidding to end a resumed rebellion in the south, Gen. Swaroudah has rescinded an unpopular administrative reorganisation of the region, restored its autonomy, offered to meet guerrilla leaders and pledged to revise Sharia (Islamic Law), which the southerners want abolished.

Western diplomats say memories of the past may have matured political leaders enough for them to be serious about denying the military a pretext for taking outright power.

But while the proposed interim cabinet may be non-political, parties are gearing up to campaign for an expected election. Front-runners include the Ummah, the Union Democratic Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. South Sudan has its own political front.

The Ummah is a liberal nationalist group linked religiously with the Ansar sect, formed in a revolt a century ago against Anglo-Egyptian rule led by the Mahdi (the awaited spiritual lead-

er). His forces stormed Khartoum in January 1885 and slew British Governor-General Charles George Gordon.

Ummah leader, Sadek Al Mahdi, a descendant of the 19th Century warrior and educated at Oxford, England, became prime minister in 1966 at the age of 30.

Mr. Mahdi has an edge over rivals in that he never collaborated with Numeiri, who frequently made allies of various groups then purged them, setting one against another. Mr. Mahdi

spurned a 1978 Numeiri call for reconciliation which led several other politicians, including Muslim Brothers, to take cabinet posts.

The Ummah, with strongholds in the western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan, claims millions of supporters. Mr. Mahdi has denounced the harsh Sharia imposed by Numeiri in 1983.

The Muslim Brotherhood was last associated with Numeiri at the time Sharia was imposed. Its leader, Hassan Al Tourabi, was foreign policy adviser to Numeiri, who later jailed him.

Diplomats call that a stroke of luck for the Brothers in view of popular hostility to floggings and amputations under Sharia and an army decision to detain Numeiri aides.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111		Evening Show Contd. Close down						
MAIN CHANNEL								
17:00	Koran							
17:10	Cartoons							
17:35	Children Programme							
18:30	Documentary							
19:00	Local Programme on Armed Forces							
19:20	Programme Review							
19:40	News Programme							
20:00	News in Arabic							
20:30	Arabic Series							
21:20	Tomorrow's Programmes							
21:30	Arabic Series							
23:00	News in Arabic							
23:10	Arabic Series Continued							
FOREIGN CHANNEL								
18:00	French Programme							
18:30	Futurair							
19:00	News in French							
19:20	Sport Magazine							
19:30	News in Hebrew							
20:00	News in Arabic							
20:30	I Guitara							
21:00	Canadian Film							
21:10	George Washington							
22:00	News in English							
22:20	Hawaiian Heat							
RADIO JORDAN								
355 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9500 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19								
07:00	Light Music							
07:30	Newsdesk							
07:45	Morning Show							
08:00	News Summary							
08:05	Pop Session							
08:10	News Summary							
08:15	Pop Session Contd.							
08:20	News Summary							
08:25	Pop Session Contd.							
08:30	Pop Session Contd.							
08:40	News Bulletin							
08:50	Instruments							
09:00	Over a Cup of Tea							
09:10	Concert Hour							
09:20	News Summary							
09:30	Instruments							
09:40	Old Favourites							
09:50	The 15th Century A.H.							
10:00	Pop Session							
10:10	News Summary							
10:15	Sports Round-up							
10:20	Special Feature							
10:30	Newsdesk							
10:40	Date with a Star							
10:50	Evening Show							
11:00	News Summary							
11:05	Evening Show Contd.							
11:15	News Summary							
11:20	Evening Show Contd.							
11:30	News Summary							

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
A painting exhibition by Spanish artist Jameel Omar at Alta Art Gallery.	
An exhibition of Works by Samer Tabban, Osman Alkuz, Omar Harman and Gulshan Saleem at Petra Bank art gallery.	
An art exhibition by Hazem Zu'bi and Deidallah Obaidat at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
CINEMA	
"On s'est trompé d'histoire" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre tel. 6610267	
American Centre 644371	
British Council 641520	
British Council 636147-8	
French Cultural Centre 637009	
Goethe Institute 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre 642303	
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777	
Yafa Arts Centre 665195	
Husseini Youth City 667181	
Y.W.C.A. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library 636111	
University of Jordan Library 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklife Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 13th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qatta' (Cistad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Galleries: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzium, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum):	

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5320015, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
10:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:45	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:55	Dhahran (RJ)
11:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:20	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
11:20	Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait (RJ)
11:30	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
11:30	Baghdad (RJ)
11:30	Baghdad, Istanbul (RJ)
11:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
11:30	Bangkok (RJ)
11:45	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
12:10	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
06:50	Frankfurt (LH)
07:50	Damascus, Athens (OA)
08:00	Beirut (RJ)
08:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Beirut (MEA)
11:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:40	Kuwait (RJ)
12:40	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
12:45	Baghdad (RJ)
12:45	Kuwait (RJ)
12:45	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
12:45	Kuwait (RJ)
12:45	Doha, Muscat (RJ)
12:45	Baghdad (RJ)
12:45	Jeddah (RJ)
12:45	Dubai (RJ)
12:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
PRAYER TIMES	
04:33	Fajr
05:58	(Sunrise) Duha
12:35	Dhahran
14:13	'Aor
19:11	Maghrib
20:36	Isha
MARITIME TRAFFIC	
Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:	
— Badre	

EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate	891228
Civil Defence Amman	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	193, 199
Civil Defence Qusayrah	770733
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	622090
622090	
First aid	630341
Blood bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	656390-1
Electric Power Co.	636381-2
Kurdi taxi	77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	642442/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642462
Malinas, J. Amn.	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	666171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	6693121
University Hospital	845843/65
Al-Mushtak Hospital	666171/4
The Islamic, Abadi	666171/4
Al-Ahl, Abadi	666140/6
Irbid, Al-Mushtak	777101/3
Al-Badri, J. Al-Badri	775111/26
Army, Madaba	891611/15
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Azwar Mousa Al Haj	771020
Dr. Tayyar Al Sadi	777636
Grand Arabian pharmacy	624051
Firas pharmacy	661912
Mishal pharmacy	770910
Salim pharmacy	894779
Al Hashad pharmacy	897690
Maha pharmacy	897690
Meqdad pharmacy	775002
TAXIS:	
Jerusalem taxi	639655
Tamer taxi	666417
Khaled taxi	637175
Kurdi taxi	841300
Wadiah taxi	812454
IRBID:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababeh	()
Tala pharmacy	()
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hisham Sharabati	98665
Bil and Omar pharmacies	()
GENERAL	
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone:	
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	17
Repair service	11
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
Apple	260/ 260
Banana	280/ 240
Banana (Mukammal)	240/ 210
Beans	240/ 210
Broad beans	120/ 100
Cabbage	50/ 30
Carrot (yellow)	140/ 110
Carrot (black)	140/ 110
Cauliflower	120/ 90
Cucumber (large)	80/ 60
Cucumber (small)	140/ 110
Eggplant (large)	170/ 140
Eggplant (small)	170/ 140
Garlic	220/ 180
Grapefruit	200/ 170
Lemon	130/ 100
Mallow	400/ 350
Mandarin	220/ 180
Marrow (large)	70/ 50
Marrow (small)	130/ 100
Onion (dry)	150/ 120
Onion (green)	120/ 100
Parsley (Shamouti)	230/ 200
Peas	60/ 60
Peas (American)	580/ 540
Pepper (sweet)	180/ 150
Pepper (hot)	360/ 320
Pumpkin	120/ 90
Radishes	80/ 30
Spinach	120/ 80
Tomatoes	120/ 80
Turnip	80/ 50

Selfies 1.15

Selfies

Home news

Jordanian, Egyptian ministers review reciprocal agricultural, labour accords

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Yusef Wali and Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Sa'ad Ahmad Sunday discussed with Jordanian ministers means of promoting Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in agriculture, human resources and labour.

Dr. Wali met with his Jordanian counterpart Ahmad Dahqan to discuss agricultural cooperation. During their meeting they explored the possibility of exchanging agricultural products through a barter exchange arrangement whereby Jordanian tomatoes and

tomato paste would be exported to Egypt and Egyptian onions and potatoes would be imported to Jordan in exchange.

The Egyptian minister expressed his country's interest in importing olive tree saplings and other fruit tree saplings cultivated in Jordanian nurseries.

Manpower exchange

In his meeting with the Egyptian minister of human resources and vocational training, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan discussed aspects of the recently signed Jordanian-Egyptian bil-

ateral agreement on labour and the exchange of manpower.

They also reviewed aspects of cooperation in social security, vocational training, industrial security and the exchange of information regarding the use of computers.

The two ministers discussed cancelling residence permits for Jordanians living in Egypt as a reciprocal arrangement whereby Egyptians living in Jordan are exempt from obtaining such permits. The Egyptian minister promised that he would look into the measure with the objective of implementing a complementary arrangement.

First agricultural exhibition concludes; Jordan invited to attend Cairo fair

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Jordanian Agricultural Show concluded Sunday after a five-day exhibition of products held at the University of Jordan's farm in the Jordan Valley. As well as the exhibition of agricultural products, there was also an information programme with documentaries and lectures delivered by experts from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The show, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, attracted about 70 participating exhibitors, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan and the Agricultural Trade Association who were the co-sponsors of the event.

Agricultural Trade Association President Ghiaith Sukhtian said that the show was designed to be the first business-oriented trade show in the field of agriculture in Jordan, and added that the show enabled businessmen to meet farmers interested in modern agricultural techniques.

Amongst the exhibited items were plastic houses, various ir-

rigation equipment, improve seeds, fertilisers, new pesticides and agricultural chemicals as well as packing materials. Several consultancy firms also participated in the show.

Mr. Sukhtian said that the association hopes that the show will become an annual national event and added that next year the association would like to stage the agricultural show in the capital and most probably at Al Hussein Sports City. He said that this would help expand the event to become more of an international show.

Head of the Information Office at the Ministry of Agriculture Salim Butros outlined the aims of the show and said that it was designed to establish contacts between farmers and businessmen on various levels, to display the latest developments in agriculture and to show techniques to farmers. He also said that it provided an opportunity for the government and the private sector to coordinate in order to boost the agricultural sector.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Butros said that the

show also established contacts between farmers and engineers of the ministry which in the future would help the ministry tackle the problems and obstacles facing farmers.

Later Sunday, Mr. Sukhtian met Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Yusef Wali who is currently in Jordan on an official visit. At the meeting Mr. Wali invited Jordanian agricultural companies to participate in the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture's agricultural show scheduled to be held in Cairo on May 5.

Mr. Sukhtian requested Jordanian agricultural industries to contact the association in order to make arrangements for participating in the show.

He said that displaying Jordanian agricultural products in

Egypt would be a positive step towards establishing solid agricultural cooperation between the two countries. This would in turn boost Jordan's agricultural manufacturing and industry as Egypt is considered a large potential market for Jordan's agricultural products and equipment, Mr. Sukhtian added.

Princess Basma inspects Bashir hospital services

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Basma Sunday paid an inspection visit to Al Bashir government hospital in Amman where she toured its sections and the services it offers to the public. She also viewed the current week-long immunisation campaign being carried out by the Ministry of Health.

At the outset of the visit Princess Basma was briefed by Dr. Sami Al Azab, director of the children's section in the hospital, on the services offered to children and the vaccines being administered to them as part of the campaign. The children's section, he said, treated 66,000 cases of diarrhoea last year which were referred to Al Bashir Hospital from various hospitals and Health

Ministry hospitals in Jordan in addition to 22,000 cases of diarrhoea which were referred by health centres run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

He said that the Health Ministry's vaccination campaign is accompanied by information media programmes encouraging parents to have their children immunised against diseases.

Princess Basma later toured the children's and maternity sections where vaccination was in progress. She later visited a section in the hospital which offers sports activities to the children. She was briefed by Dr. Suleiman Qub'ain, the Health Ministry's director of basic health welfare, on the aims of the week-long vaccination campaign to counter infectious diseases.

Oil refinery expansion to boost production by 250%

ZARQA (Petra) — A special ceremony will be held at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) in Zarqa next month to inaugurate the company's third expansion project, according to Mr. Ramiz Malhees, JPRC's acting director.

He said that with the inauguration of the new project the company will have raised its production capacity by 250 per cent, which he said amounts to building a new refinery for the country.

The cost of the project amounted to JD 58.025 million and was carried out by a Romanian company specialising in this field and the electro-mechanical designs for the refinery's units were carried out by a British company, Mr. Malhees said. He paid tribute to Jordanian expertise which was involved in the preparation of technical documents for the project, drawing up engineering designs and in the installation of equipment and the subsequent testing which preceded the production stage.

JPRC was established in 1956 under a 50-year contract and it started production in 1961 with an initial production capacity of 1000 tonnes a day. The company started off with a JD 4 million capital which now stands at JD 32 million, of which the Jordanian government owns eight per cent.



KLM marks 25th anniversary

To mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Amman-Amsterdam route by the Royal Dutch Airlines KLM, the airline's regional director Najib Fakhouri and his wife held a reception at King Hussein Club in Amman on Wednesday April 17, 1985. The reception was attended by a group of senior government officials and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Amman as well as directors of airlines companies operating in Jordan, businessmen, tourist agents and their

wives. Former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Talhouqi cut the cake which was presented by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Present to welcome the guests at the reception were Mr. W.J. Tange KLM's vice president for Asia and Australia, Mr. F.M. Kardinaal, General Manager Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Cyprus and Dr. DMS Schroeder, director of foreign relations.

Jordan, Egypt sign cooperation agreements

Comprehensive protocols to increase trade, economic development and scientific research

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Sunday signed three separate agreements to promote bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, technical, cultural and information fields.

One of the agreements on trade, economic and technical affairs was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Raja'i Muasher and Egyptian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Kamal Jazouli. Under the agreement, both countries undertake to bolster their commercial links and to encourage joint projects in various economic fields to serve common interests and to help bring about Arab economic integration. The agreement is designed to develop production sectors in both countries, to utilise expertise, studies and scientific and technical research and will boost exchanges of visits by delegations of specialists from both countries.

The agreement provides for comprehensive coordination between the plans of both countries through a standing coordination committee which will be entrusted with studying the general plans in each country in order to increase and diversify the volume of trade.

The committee will encourage and supervise the holding of exhibitions, the work of trade centres and will establish a joint company to gather and offer expertise for the exploration of oil and mineral wealth and industry connected with them and will encourage investors and businessmen to establish joint Egyptian-Jordanian schemes.

The committee will also take measures to facilitate the land, sea and air transport procedures and will encourage the exchange of expertise in transport in its various forms, and in transit, and free zone trade and in communications and telecommunications.

The agreement also covers coordination between Egypt and Jordan in laying down a strategy for agricultural integration. They will set up a joint higher agricultural committee to explore the prospect of and the potentials in this respect and to study production, and marketing plans, benefiting from expertise available to both countries.

The agreement also provides for boosting tourism and tourist projects by promoting the work and performance of tourist agencies and the national airlines of both countries which could market Egyptian and Jordanian tourist sites abroad.

The agreement provides for the unrestricted passage of manpower to both countries, exchanges of expertise in vocational training, social security, labour safety and health. A specialised ministerial joint committee will be formed to follow up on the implementation of this agreement and to tackle all problems which might arise in the course of its implementation, and

will come up with effective recommendations for bolstering bilateral relations. The agreement lasts for five years and can be renewed automatically for a similar period unless deemed otherwise by any party through a written notice six months before expiry date.

Following the signing of the agreement, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that the accord came in the course of a programme of comprehensive cooperation between Jordan and Egypt which was endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He said that all forms of bilateral cooperation are being continually increased and expanded at all levels.

Dr. Badran said that Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation will have a vital role in linking the Arab Orient with the western side of the Arab World and will overcome many barriers which have impeded close cooperation between them over the past decades. The agreement will enable all economic activities and manpower and commodities and services to move freely from the eastern to the western parts of the Arab World and vice versa, Dr. Badran said.

The second agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Yusef Wali. Under the agreement both countries undertake to promote bilateral relations in cultural and scientific affairs through the exchange of expertise, and experience in education, higher education, sciences, culture, arts, physical training, youth and sports and through the exchange of delegations and information and documents that have a cultural, scientific, educational character and through organising conferences, seminars, exhibitions, concerts, and artistic and sports festivals. The agreement provides for both countries to cooperate in arabising educational curriculae, specially history and geography of Arab countries, and writings projecting the lives and works of leading Arab figures in cultural, scientific, artistic and literary fields.

Under the same agreement, Jordan and Egypt undertake to offer annual scholarships for nationals from each country to study at universities and other higher educational institutions in the light of available resources. The two countries will lay a basis for equating degrees and certificates awarded to graduates in their respective institutions and will facilitate the exchange of visits by university staff, faculty members and researchers.

They will also unify technical terms in various fields of study, initiate cooperation between scientific institutions of both countries and will exchange publications, periodicals and documents and manuscripts on history and archaeology as well as information and data to help the process of publication. They will help delegations from both countries to set up art and archaeological exhibits and will facilitate the setting up of festivals, and will invite artists and musical and theatre troupes to visit both countries as well as delegations representing sports, and youth institutions.

The agreement also provides for the easy exchange of films as well as documentaries on scientific, cultural and education themes and will exchange radio and television and press programmes and books and publications. Each information medium in either country will undertake to promote cultural and social and artistic aspects of the other and will exchange expertise in tourism, archaeology and social development.

Both countries agreed to set up a joint committee to hold meetings on a regular basis to implement the agreement. The agreement updates one signed by the two countries in 1968 under which both sides undertook to promote the exchange of expertise in cul-

tural and information fields. Jordan and Egypt also signed an agreement to bolster cooperation between the two countries in the field of information.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib and Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat Al Sharif.

The agreement covered the fields of information, journalism, printing and publishing, broadcasting and radio, television and news agencies. The agreement states that both parties will bolster cooperation in the fields of information, journalism and printing and publishing through the exchange of books, pamphlets, publications, slides and various information studies which are published in both countries and which depict the country's features, civilisation and progress.

The two parties agreed to permit the importation of newspapers and magazines published in both countries and to facilitate the distribution and circulation of such publications through the promotion of contacts between distribution agencies in both countries.

After the signing ceremony both the ministers, Mr. Mohammad Khatib of Jordan and Safwat Sharif of Egypt, praised the agreement and expressed hope that it will lead to future agreements between the two countries.

Mr. Khatib expressed hope that

in the future any obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreement would be solved by direct telephone calls between the two colleagues in the two countries.

Mr. Sharif meanwhile called on the media and newsmen in the two countries to further political decisions made by the two countries' leaders. He extended an invitation to Mr. Khatib to visit Egypt.

The ceremony was attended by Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamameh, the directors of the ministry's department and the journalists delegation accompanying Mr. Sharif. The Egyptian minister later praised Jordanian-Egyptian relations and said that these ties have already progressed in a way which will yield benefits for both countries and their people.

Mr. Sharif, who was speaking to reporters at the Prime Ministry Sunday afternoon, said that the information agreement, signed earlier in the day, will lead to strengthening Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in this field and will promote journalism in both countries.

The minister added that he invited Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib to visit Egypt so that the two sides can formulate a working programme for the implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Khatib, who accepted the invitation, also praised the agreement and described it as a first step towards more cooperation in the field.

Egyptian cultural week to offer varied, informative programme of activities

By Rana Sabbagh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Egyptian cultural week, which will open under royal patronage on April 23, promises to present several interesting programmes including an art exhibition, a sculpture display, a book exhibition, poetry evenings, puppet theatre, the Rida Folklore Troupe and an Egyptian film week.

Mr. Hilmi Bdeir, counsellor at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman, told reporters Sunday that the activity is an actual interpretation of cultural and information agreements which were recently signed between Jordan and Egypt.

During a press conference, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), Mr. Bdeir said that the event comes in support of the brotherly relations which link both countries and he added that Jordan has offered all possible support for the success of the cultural week. "The cultural event will enable Jordanians to gain an insight into the Egyptian cultural life and heritage which will be displayed through the various activities of the week", Mr.

Bdeir added.

Egyptian Information Attache in Amman Mohammad Sami Shabini pointed out that the book exhibition will have information and descriptions of Egypt's geology, geography, social life, economy, and contemporary literature. There will also be photographs of life in Egypt, and slides of women in Egypt, the Pyramids, Cairo and other main cultural features of Egypt. Both displays are part of the information activities to be covered during this week.

Egyptian Minister of Culture Mohammad Abdul Hamid Radwan, who is due to arrive in Amman Tuesday, will attend the opening of the cultural week. The event has been organised by the Jordanian Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture.

Both Mr. Bdeir and Mr. Shabini hope that a Jordanian cultural week might be held in Egypt soon which he said would enable Egyptians to gain an insight into the rich Jordanian culture and heritage, of which will be open to the public.

Outlining the details of the cultural week, Mr. Bdeir explained that the poetry evenings will be held at the RCC and added that four prominent Egyptian poets; will participate. Taher Abu Fasih, Fathi Said, Mohammad Al Tahami, and Mohammad Abu Sitteh.

The Rida Folklore Troupe, who arrived in Amman on Friday will stage four performances at Al Hussein Cultural Palace on April 25, 26, 28, and 29. The group, which performed at the 1983 Jerash Festival, proved to be very popular with Jordanian and foreign audiences alike.

The film week will cover documentaries on the history of filmmaking in Egypt from the 1920's to the present day and other movies will be organised in cooperation with the Cine Club in Jordan and shown at Philadelphia and other local cinemas. The puppet theatre will stage two performances on a daily basis at the RCC and there will also be an art exhibition and book display, both of which will be open to the public.

WELLA 1985 REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Over 35 delegates from 16 countries are attending the Wella Regional Conference, being held for the first time in Jordan, throughout this week.

The Marriott Hotel in Amman has been chosen for the formal sessions. In addition, the delegates from Bahrain, Germany, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunis and U.A.E., will be visiting with some of their families the tourist sites of Jordan.

The Wella delegation will be headed by Dr. D.K. Schneidewind, member of the Board of Directors, together with Mr. H. Balks, Regional Export Manager. Several marketing and promotional experts will also be in attendance. A special guest from Wella Japan will also be attending the sessions.

The Conference will be studying joint regional strategy. Several new products will also be introduced.

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DR. JOHN F. HARVEY, Dean of Students, INTERCOLLEGE of Management and Communication Studies in Cyprus arrived in Amman yesterday to meet officials of the Ministry of Education and to visit private English-language schools. Dr. Harvey will also receive parents and students and take applications for admission to INTERCOLLEGE. He will be staying at the Jerusalem International Mella Hotel from Sunday morning, April 21 through Saturday evening, April 27.

Call 665121-8 for appointment

Jordan Times

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Stirring up trouble

ISRAEL'S invasion of Lebanon in 1982 had a dual purpose. The first was to establish a client regime in Beirut dominated by the Falangists. The second was to destroy the PLO and suppress Palestinian nationalism.

The first part of the plan has ended in complete failure. The deaths of at least 25,000 Arabs and the devastation of parts of Beirut and many other Lebanese towns have accomplished nothing for the Israelis. They failed to set up the regime they wanted, their Falangist clients failed to impose themselves upon the country (although they succeeded in massacring large numbers of civilians), and their army, after provoking the hatred of Lebanon's largest community, is now in retreat.

Since the collapse of its attempt to control Lebanon through a proxy government in Beirut, Israel's aim has been to promote an atmosphere of anarchical violence that removes any possibility of a Lebanese recovery. Its policies seem designed specifically to damage the credibility of the Beirut government and to prevent the Lebanese army from controlling the south.

Much of the violence has been committed directly by the Israelis. In recent weeks, scores of Shi'ite Muslims have been killed during raids on villages in South Lebanon. Several times the Israeli army has invaded a village and then later withdrawn claiming to have killed 20 or 30 "terrorists". It is only when the bodies are inspected afterwards that so many "terrorists" turn out to be young girls or old shepherds or families trying to flee by car.

A more subtle but ultimately no less brutal aspect of Israeli policy has been the encouragement of fighting between different Lebanese factions. No one seriously doubts that Samir Geagea's recent revolt in Mount Lebanon, and the violence provoked by his supporters around Sidon, were encouraged by the Israelis. Since 1982 the Christian militiamen in the south have been very largely under Israeli control. Their attacks during March on Muslim villages, Palestinian refugee camps, and Lebanese army posts, could not have been carried out without Israeli support.

If Israel's plans for Lebanon have ended in clear, undoubted failure, there is more uncertainty about the future of its second goal, the colonisation and eventual annexation of the occupied territories. According to the most recent Benvenisti report, more than half the West Bank has now been expropriated by Israel for settlements, "security reasons", and "public purposes". Since the invasion of Lebanon, the number of Israeli settlers there (excluding Jerusalem) has doubled to more than 40,000.

It cannot be over-emphasised that in international law the West Bank belongs to its Palestinian inhabitants. Whether it should be part of a Palestinian state (as proposed in the 1947 U.N. resolution) or a part of Jordan (in accordance with the Jerusalem conference of 1949) is a matter of debate for the Arabs. What is not debatable is the illegality of Israel's occupation. If Israelis point to the U.N. partition plan as the legal basis of their state, they should remember that the same resolution gave the West Bank to the Arabs.

The Likud ministers in the Israeli government have been pressing for greater colonisation so as to make Israel's hold on the West Bank irreversible. Probably they have not yet succeeded. If they do, then the chance of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will have gone for ever — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: New test of Arab will

JORDAN SATURDAY issued a statement drawing world attention to Iran's preparations to launch yet another offensive on Iraq. This warning of the imminent danger places the international community with face to face its responsibility and calls for serious efforts to be carried out by the United Nations and world organisations to stem aggression and bring to an end the conflict.

Condemning the war and the aggressors is not enough, and so serious measures should be taken in view of the situation. The time has now come for the United Nations to impose sanctions and penalties on Iran for persisting in its drive to continue the war with Iraq because such a war can engulf other areas and disturb world peace. It is also incumbent on the Arab countries to honour the defence treaty they signed under the Arab League umbrella and which provides for helping Arab countries which are exposed to external aggression.

The imminent aggression on Iraq is yet another test of the will of the Arab Nation and its ability to repel danger and that threatens Arab future.

Al Dustour: Seeking Arab solidarity

THE VISIT of Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali to Jordan and his talks with Jordanian leaders which started Saturday is another step towards bolstering bilateral relations following the resumption of diplomatic ties between them.

Although the talks are within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee, yet they point to genuine desire on the part of both sides to strengthen Arab solidarity through bilateral cooperation. The two countries, Jordan and Egypt, have been progressively strengthening their cooperation in economic, trade, cultural and social fields, but the committee's meeting in Amman is hoped to achieve further progress in this respect.

Cooperation between Jordan and Egypt has not been concentrated only on political subjects, but rather on economic and social fields that have direct link and influence on the lives of nationals from both countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Promoting cooperation

THE MEETINGS of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee, now taking place in Amman are designed to speed up economic cooperation between the two countries. The committee will discuss practical steps to be taken towards building a network of close interests common for both sides and for the benefit of both peoples.

The transport sector has acquired the better attention because of its close and direct connection with the interests of Egyptian and Jordanian nationals. Transport is important for the travel of labourers and for the exchange of trade by land and sea which in turn help promote economic cooperation.

No doubt the due attention being given to promoting bilateral ties comes in implementation of King Hussein's directives to the government of Zaid Al Rifai upon its formation. Apart from transport, agriculture, tourism, information and culture the two countries have a wide range of fields to tackle in their efforts to bolster cooperation between them. There are various areas and enormous resources in the Arab World that can be exploited jointly for the benefit of all Arabs. But for aspirations and hopes to be fulfilled it is more feasible to carry out joint endeavours.

Guest Column

Will Sudan's new rulers try something new?

THE SUDANESE people are now feeling the pinch after years of economic confusion, bad planning and negligence by the ousted regime of President Numeiri. The people are now confronted with a very difficult situation but great nations duly overcome hardships and handle their problems with wisdom.

In the past, Sudan served as a "bread basket" for Africa and the Arab World. But now it has been transformed into a dependency deeply indebted to other nations, companies and even individuals, and has

lost many years in vain and with no production.

Sudan is now counted among those nations that are constantly exposed to famine, illiteracy, disease and, above all, suffers from huge debts. This year alone, nearly a million Sudanese children are liable to die of famine, and in the coming two years, famine will most probably kill half of the remainder population in the country. The standard of education has dropped to unprecedented low levels, diseases are rampant and the nation bears a debt of \$9

billion, which carries an annual interest of \$800 million.

The deteriorating situation led the Sudanese people, who are known for their gentleness and kindness to take to the streets crying out against starvation. This starvation came as a natural result of negligence, ill-planning of production, especially in agriculture, the building of canals, dams and industry. As a result, all land reform and land reclamation projects had to stop. At the same time, the Sudanese people's attention

was diverted from the basic requirements of their livelihoods to the presence of public parks, the high-rise buildings, bridges and luxurious public places that were all constructed with loans from Western countries.

The debtors had continually encouraged Numeiri to borrow more and more to satisfy his own desires. The United States gave him loans which it called "assistance", and West European nations offered loans calling the "gifts" that were actually attached to certain conditions bearing all the

features and terms of ordinary loans with high interest rates.

Numeiri fell victim to his own desires and to these debts and loans, which meant subjugation to the debtor countries.

In a few years, Sudan fell into the trap, became one of those countries like Mexico, Brazil and the Philippines — a group heavily indebted to Western powers and unable to honour their commitments.

Now that Numeiri is out of the way, the Western countries are trying out new baits

on the new military rulers, baits that might attract the attention of the starved Sudanese people. They are trying different techniques to achieve their goals. But will the Sudanese people be taken in after all that had happened, or will they try their hand at different ways to ensure continued survival?

The coming days will have the answer to the question, and a great deal lies in the hands of the new rulers, who of course can help chart a brilliant or a gloomy future for the nation.



Yugoslavia offers Tirana an olive branch

By Richard Balmforth
 Reuters

BELGRADE — Yugoslavia is showing rare restraint in its comments on the new Albanian leadership, signalling hopes for an end to the long-standing political feud between the Balkan neighbours.

Officials here avoid speculation on the direction Albania might move under Ramiz Alia, who took over as Communist Party chief this month on the death of Enver Hoxha, the Stalinist leader who was 40 years in power.

The few discreet public comments by officials emphasise

non-aligned Yugoslavia's support for an Albania independent of big power alliances. They say good-neighbourly ties are in the interests of both countries and peace in the Balkans.

The also-discreet comments on Mr. Alia himself despite sharp words for Belgrade in Mr. Alia's funeral oration to Mr. Hoxha.

One Western diplomat said: "The Yugoslavs have their eye very much to the distant future. They are reassessing policy. This is a new moment. They do not want to antagonise Tirana."

A new leadership in Albania is of paramount importance to Bel-

grade internally because of its potential impact on Yugoslavia's volatile 1.8 million ethnic Albanian minority.

Nationalist riots in 1981 among the 1.4 million ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province provided fresh verbal ammunition for Mr. Hoxha, a relentless critic of Belgrade.

But though Kosovo is a major headache for the Yugoslavs, Belgrade clearly sees it as being of secondary significance to the strategic considerations at stake.

The cold face that its neighbour showed to the world under Mr. Hoxha, and its implacable hos-

tility to the superpowers, squared with Yugoslavia's own foreign policy of non-alignment.

Yugoslavia was as much relieved as the West at Tirana's speedy rejection of Moscow's message of condolences that appeared to rule out any sudden swerve by Tirana back to the East bloc, diplomats said.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zelko Jelic, in a comment to journalists, said Yugoslavia supported the independence of Albania "considering such a position as an important element for the stability of the whole region in which we live".

Long way from Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City

By Brian Williams
 Reuters

HO CHI MINH CITY — How do you turn rascals and prostitutes into decent human beings?

According to Vietnam's Communist leaders it takes 10 years and the key is hard work.

They base their findings on the transformation of Saigon into Ho Chi Minh City in the decade since the city was liberated, its name was changed and the Vietnam war ended.

As the anniversary date of April 30 approaches and foreign journalists flood in to cover the celebrations, authorities are sprucing up the city and guiding reporters to its achievements with tours and endless statistics of then and now.

The authorities have no bad news in official briefings.

"We took over a consumers' city of rascals and prostitutes and

transformed it into a producers' city of decent human beings," says Le Quang Chan, vice-chairman of Ho Chi Minh City's ruling People's Committee.

There is a figure available for any part of city life.

"On average each resident of Ho Chi Minh sees 13 cultural events a year," Mr. Chan says.

There were 100,000 prostitutes in 1975 but only a few now, food production has risen dramatically, industry is growing, the city's population has fallen from 4.5 million to 3.5 million.

There have been other changes too.

A former South Vietnamese army lieutenant is now a cyclo driver, while Tran Kiem, a 17-year-old high school student in the top half of his class 10 years ago, sits at his desk and hopes to sit his university entrance examination next year.

Nguyen Van Phuc, 25, was in the bottom half of his class 10 years ago and now swings a sledge hammer at a plant which converts old U.S. supplied war equipment into new steel.

"I will work here until my last breath," he says through a government guide with no sign of discontent.

At the plant last year, the equivalent of 1,000 tanks or hundreds of thousands of shell casings were turned into steel.

"We can go on doing this for years," a plant official says. "In the forests and rivers there is equipment we haven't even started to look for."

But officials in Ho Chi Minh say the city is looking increasingly abroad for the modern equipment it needs to upgrade its factories and move on to a new stage of development.

Handicrafts and light industries like bicycle making predominate in the city.

The officials are aware that their industries lag behind modern plants in most other parts of Asia and also suffer from power and other infrastructure shortages.

"While most of Asia is looking at the year 2,000, we're looking at the years after 2,000," one senior official said.

However the officials say the need for modernisation will not override their determination to build a city with a better "environment".

"A bad environment is one where everyone is not employed earning his living," says Mai Chi Tho, chairman of the People's Committee and a brother of Le Duc Tho, one of Vietnam's most powerful leaders.

'The people of Brunei do not want any more'

By Robert Mahoney
 Reuters

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — The lazy rocking of Brunei's famous "nodding donkeys" not only pumps oil but also apparently puts people to political sleep.

The hypnotic, see-saw motion of the hammer-head oil pumps has given the ruler of Southeast Asia's last autocratic monarchy the dollars to buy political peace from his 200,000 mainly Muslim, Malay subjects.

In the year since the tiny North Borneo Sultanate gained full independence from Britain, barely a voice has been raised against the feudal-style government of Sultan Sir Muda Hassan Bolkiah.

Although energy accounts for 99 per cent of exports, falling world oil prices and production cutbacks in the past six months have made little impact on living standards which remain the second highest in the world after the United Arab Emirates, according to World Bank figures.

The 38-year-old Sultan, who recently bought London's Dorchester Hotel, holds the strings to a 15-billion-dollar state purse and sits on top of oil and gas reserves which are conservatively estimated to last well into the next century.

Any Bruneians who hoped the end of nearly a century of British rule in January last year might

re-kindle local political life must be disappointed.

Debate, still less dissent, is rare in this 400-year-old hereditary Islamic monarchy where ordinary Malays and ethnic Chinese have virtually no say in running the government. There are no active political parties.

When Britain handed over control of defence and foreign affairs the sultan made himself prime minister, finance minister and home affairs minister in addition to his duties as head of state and commander-in-chief of the country's well-equipped, British-officered armed forces.

He gave the defence portfolio to his father, made his brother, Prince Mohammad, foreign minister and abolished the appointed state legislative council.

The sultan is in his new 300-million-dollar palace and all is well with the world, say leading local and foreign residents.

But some tensions may lurk beneath the surface. Last month about 30 junior Malay businessmen held a well-heralded meeting in a local hotel to form the National Democratic Party of Brunei and draft a letter to the sultan, foreign residents said.

They wanted greater government help for their businesses, the residents said.

Some small contractors are unhappy now that the pre-independence building boom has

fizzled out, they added. The precise aims of the party remain unclear and none of its members could be contacted.

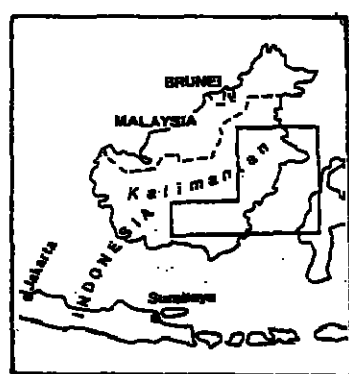
The sources were careful not to accord too much political significance to the meeting but they said it showed some Bruneians seemed ready to try organised pressure on government to further commercial interests.

"Even if this were to represent the rebirth of political life, which it does not necessarily do, the overwhelming majority of Bruneians remain loyal to the sultan," said one resident who asked not to be named.

The sultan said after independence that political parties led to chaos and elections would not work in Brunei. He said in a rare interview: "The people are more or less happy with their lives. They do not want any more. They have a good life."

There is no denying that. The palace spends nearly half the four billion dollars a year earned in energy exports by Brunei Shell Petroleum on the "welfare state".

This cradle-to-grave welfare programme provides most of the population with free schooling at home and abroad, free medical care, low-cost loans, subsidised food and generous retirement pensions. Nobody pays income tax either.



ties with Brunei want the sultan to bring his political style in tune with the 1980s and would like to see greater participation in government, according to diplomats based outside Brunei but familiar with it.

Some argue that greater awareness among young Bruneians, particularly among those who have studied abroad, of political freedoms in other countries could lead to pressure for reform at home, the diplomats said.

Others believe that the sultan would be wise to seek wider consultation before taking decisions and adopt a higher public profile to explain policies.

But the indications are that Sir Hassan, a polo and sportsman enthusiast educated at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy, has no intention of immediately changing either the style or substance of his power.

Election may be only way out of Brazil's political paralysis

By Allan Reditt
 Reuters

BRASILIA — A new presidential election may be the only way out of Brazil's current political paralysis if ailing 75-year-old President-Elect Tancredino Neves is unable to assume office, according to some political sources.

In parliament, the view is growing that without Mr. Neves there will never be a new democratic republic to take over from the military rule of the past two decades, the sources say.

Mr. Neves was rushed to hospital for abdominal surgery the day before his inauguration as the country's first civilian president since 1964. A U.S. specialist called to Sao Paulo to treat him after he had undergone his seventh operation described his condition Saturday as grave and difficult to control.

No decision, however, can be taken on a new election until Mr. Neves dies, or is deemed by his doctors to be unable to take office. In the meantime, the leadership is unwilling to make any pronouncements while the country's 131 million people cling to the hope that he will recover.

Mr. Neves, elected by a 686-member Electoral College in January, is said to have overwhelming popular support demonstrated last year at opposition rallies to back legislative changes to allow direct presidential elections.

If the opposition campaign had succeeded in changing the constitution imposed by the architects of the 1964 military coup, Mr. Neves would have won a landslide victory, politicians say.

But Brazil now faces the prospect that the presidency will continue to be occupied by Vice-president Jose Sarney, who is clearly identified in the public eye with 21 years of military rule as former president of the Social Democratic Party (PDS).

Agriculture Minister Pedro Simon told reporters that, in the event of Mr. Sarney's succession, unity of the ruling Democratic Alliance of the main Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) and the minority government partner, the Liberal Front Party (PFL), would be insufficient to avoid social conflict.

Without a social pact involving workers and employers, social turbulence would result, he said, warning: "Without understanding, the situation could get out of control."

Gen. Rubem Bayma Denys, chief of military staff at the presidency and a member of the National Security Council, told reporters Brazil's Armed Forces were ready to help the civilian authorities in the event of civil disorder after Mr. Neves' death.

Political sources said the calling of a direct presidential election should Mr. Sarney succeed Mr. Neves would add radicalism to the present political paralysis.

French nuclear submarines shoot when mission fails

By Gavin Bell
 Reuters

L'ILE LONGUE, France — In the silently beating heart of the French strategic nuclear submarine Le Foudroyant there are two identical keyboards.

They resemble office typewriters, but the only message they will ever write is "armageddon".

For their sole function is to unleash a holocaust of 16 M-20 missiles, each armed with thermonuclear warheads 500 times more powerful than the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima.

The irony of the keyboards is that their operation will mean the submarine has already failed in its mission — to deter a nuclear attack on France. To activate them with secret codes will be an act of pure vengeance on a monumental scale.

Captain Hubert Foillard and his second-in-command live with the awful knowledge that if ever they use the keyboards, civilisation in much of Europe would have already ceased to exist.

Capt. Foillard, commander of Le Foudroyant (the thunderer), gave a succinct explanation of his task during a recent press visit to the headquarters of France's Strategic Submarine Force (FOST) in Brittany where reporters boarded his vessel.

"My job is to create fear. To make sure an enemy understands we will retaliate, that we will take an eye for an eye, so he leaves us alone and we leave him alone," he said.

Asked about the apocalyptic power under his command, he said: "There are no degrees of horror in war. If you kill a man with a sword, wipe out a platoon with a machinegun or destroy a city with a nuclear bomb, the moral question is the same."

"If we receive the order to fire, all 16 missiles will be dispatched within a 10-minute period. That's what we're here for."

The concept of "second strike", or massive retaliation, is at the heart of France's independent nuclear strategy.

The country has 18 ground-launched ballistic missiles and 21 Mirage IV nuclear bombers, but

its strategic submarine fleet constitutes what President Francois Mitterrand has called "the spearhead of our deterrent force".

The fleet's strike power increased enormously this month with the entry into service of its sixth vessel, L'Inflexible, armed with longer-range multiple warhead missiles.

Each of the M-4 missiles is designed to deliver six 150-kiloton warheads over an area measuring 350 by 150 kilometres in enemy territory up to 4,500 kilometres away.

Four of the other submarines are to be equipped with the new missiles before the end of the decade. Current plans provide for a new generation of submarines to become operational in the mid-1990s, designed to be more difficult to detect and to have even greater firepower.

Total secrecy is vital to the mission of a strategic nuclear submarine (SNLE). When Le Foudroyant is on patrol, the French high command knows which zone it is in but never its precise location.

It avoids all contact with other vessels. The least disturbance in its vicinity will send it plunging silently to the ocean depths.

Unlike its greatest enemy, known in military jargon as the hunter-killer submarine, it never takes part in joint exercises with allied forces. The Western allies regularly exchange information on the location of their attack submarines, but never of the SNLEs.

The interior of Le Foudroyant, like its sister ships, is a dense jungle of high technology guidance, propulsion, armaments and communications systems. The section housing the ballistic missiles is next door to the ratings' canteen.

The almost inconceivable destructive power contained in the ranks of identical 10-metre high tubes is curiously unreal — until you read a neat row of electronic signs fitted to their sides.

The wording is succinct: "Start of sequence... launch pressure correct... door open... tube ready... authority to fire".

That order can come only from the French president — or an appointed deputy should he have been killed in a nuclear attack.

U.S. considered poisoning 500,000 in World War II

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Scientists considered using radioactive food to poison 500,000 of the enemy during World War II, according to a newly declassified letter from J. Robert Oppenheimer to Dr. Enrico Fermi, two pioneers of the atomic bomb.

The proposal, which apparently was never fully developed, was disclosed in an article in the May-June issue of Technology Review, a magazine published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Oppenheimer, who directed the building of the atom bomb in the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, suggested in the letter dated May 25, 1943, that a plan to contaminate food be

delayed until there was enough radioactive poison to kill a half million people, the article said.

The letter, sent from Mr. Oppenheimer in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Dr. Fermi in Chicago, did not say how the poison would be administered or indicate the enemy against which the poison would be directed.

Dr. Fermi, an Italian-born physicist who produced the first nuclear chain reaction in 1942, worked with Mr. Oppenheimer on the Manhattan project that built the bomb. A winner of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1938, he died in 1954. Mr. Oppenheimer died in 1967.

The author of the article, Stanford University history Professor Barton J. Bernstein, wrote that he

found the letter in the library of Congress. He said the project "probably founded on substantial technical problems and the reluctance of top military personnel to divert resources from the A-bomb."

"It illustrates an important fact: Amid the horror of World War II, including German concentration camps and the mass killing of war prisoners, many U.S. scientists, like rank-and-file civilians, were willing to devise new ways to kill the enemy by the thousands and even hundreds of thousands," Prof. Bernstein wrote.

The atomic bomb was first successfully tested in July 1945 and was dropped on Japan twice in August of that year.

"I think we should not attempt a

plan," Mr. Oppenheimer wrote, according to the letter reproduced in the magazine, "unless we can poison food sufficient to kill a half a million men, since there is no doubt that the actual amount will, because of non-uniform distribution, be much smaller than this."

Mentioned in the Oppenheimer letter as being aware of the plan were Edward Teller, known as father of the hydrogen bomb, James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University and chairman of the National Defense Research Committee during World War II, Gen. Leslie Groves, commander of the Manhattan project, Gen. George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, and Dr. Joseph Hamilton, a physician and as-

sociate professor of medicine at the University of California at Berkeley's radiation laboratory.

Prof. Bernstein said that none of the 16 Manhattan project scientists he queried, including Mr. Teller, Hans Bethe, Frank Oppenheimer, Robert R. Wilson, Philip Morrison, Robert Serber, Eugene Wigner and Richard Feynman, recalled the poison plan.

"Most were shocked when they saw the declassified document," the historian reported.

In the letter Mr. Oppenheimer wrote that Gen. Marshall had asked Mr. Conant to report on the "military uses of radioactive material."

"I therefore, with Groves' knowledge, and approval, discussed with him the application which

seemed to us so promising, gave him a few points of detail and some orders of magnitude."

Mr. Oppenheimer said he planned to discuss the matter "a little more deeply" with Prof. Hamilton, who, he said, had studied strontium, "which appears to offer the highest promise."

Strontium-90 is a radioactive isotope found in fallout from some nuclear explosions. It can destroy the tissues that make blood in humans and animals.

Prof. Bernstein wrote that Frank Oppenheimer, a physicist and Robert's younger brother, called the letter "bloodthirsty," adding: "In those days we talked about everything, every way of killing." Frank Oppenheimer died in February.

Randa Habibi

Hats for all seasons

THERE ARE people who wear hats, straw hats when it's sunny, wall ones when it's foggy. There are people who change hats depending on the weather or the occasion.

Those people would never allow themselves to go out without a hat for fear of a sun stroke or a cold draft.

There are also people who change opinions like one would change hats, who applaud what is current and stamp out with rage the past, who claim with vehemence the contrary of what they had claimed the day before with the same vehemence.

There are people who swing with the wind and never go against it. In fact, there are all kinds of people and this is very good... Being a pacifist, going where the wind blows or being the flatterer type... why not?

But does one have for that to destroy everything that preceded and say the contrary of what has always been stated? Anyhow, who is the fool, may I ask?

My latest hobby is in fact to hear around me in salons or offices people deploying great efforts to convince you that the current ideas have always been theirs. That what is being adopted now is the right thing, as if game belongs to those who shout louder and criticize past follies in the toughest manner.

I am personally for new ideas and new theories. I am for giving each one his chance to offer his best. As for the hypocrites...

Anzac Cove to be named officially for Gallipoli anniversary

By Paul Bolding

Reuter

GALLIPOLI PENINSULA, Turkey — In April 1915, British and allied troops launched an invasion of Turkey that night have shortened World War I by two years.

Instead it was one of the most disastrous military operations of the century, one still remembered bitterly by Australia and New Zealand, which lost some 10,000 of the estimated 46,000 allied dead.

On April 25, the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli invasion, the site referred to on campaign maps as ANZAC Cove — iron in the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand troops who landed there — will be given that name officially by Turkey.

At a time when troops were bogged down on the Western front, Britain's aim in the invasion was to force Turkey out of the war, start a new front against Germany and open a war in winter route to its Russian ally by taking the Dardanelles.

The sparsely-populated peninsula, dotted with Conventual and French cemeteries and Turkish neorials, is a patchwork of pine woods and Turkish hills, lush and green at this time of year.

In summer it is unbearably hot, a climate which in 1915 brought disease to allied troops hit by a lack of water.

Despite the recent construction of a road above the narrow beach at ANZAC Cove, it is easy to see the steep, scrub and gorse covered hillside that greeted the troops.

Much of the debris of battle has been cleared in recent years, but pieces of pottery, water jugs and

tins that held the soldiers' staple diet of bully beef still lie around.

The invasion was preceded by a naval attempt to force the heavily-mined Dardanelles Strait, which with the Bosphorus links the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

The action culminated on March 18 when 18 battleships, as well as cruisers and destroyers, shelled forts in the narrows in an unsuccessful attempt to destroy Turkish guns.

In his book "Gallipoli", British historian and member of parliament Robert Rhodes James says: "For the loss of nearly 700 men killed, three battleships sunk and three crippled, the allied fleet had merely succeeded in making the Turks fire away at most all of their heavy ammunition."

For Turkey, whose modern history concentrates on its struggle for independence after the 1914-18 war, the campaign has little significance, except as a conflict in which Mustafa Kemal rose to prominence.

General, later dubbed Atatürk or "father of the Turks", was the Turkish commander at Gallipoli. He was to become the first president of the republic.

Turkish history books illustrate his courage, leadership and battle skills. "I do not order you to attack, I order you to die," he is said to have told his men.

Following Turkey's March 1915 defeat, the date of the victory in what is called the Canakkale War. A newspaper article marking the anniversary last week said: "The allied powers... made no allowance for the superiority of the Turkish soldier and Turkish military leadership."

At ANZAC, on the west of the peninsula, allied troops were landed about 1.2 kilometres further

north than planned and were unable to make rapid progress inland. A Turkish account says a naval had calculated where they would land.

The ANZACs moved only a kilometre. British and French troops who landed at Helles, on the southern tip of the peninsula, fared little better.

A break-out attempt in August failed, and both sides were bogged down in static trench warfare for much of their 8-11 months in combat.

The only bright note for the allies was that evacuations of the ANZAC and Helles sectors, ordered in December 1915 and January 1916, were achieved without loss of life.

Reconstructions soon began, however. Rhodes James concurs with late Australian historian Alan Moorehead that the campaign was "a mighty destroyer of reputations". A British royal commission concluded it had been ill-conceived and ineptly executed. Most of the senior military men concerned resigned.

Mr. Churchill lost his post in May 1916 and has since been blamed in varying degrees for the debacle. After a long time in the political wilderness, he became Britain's prime minister in World War II.

In 1914, British historian Roger Lytton, argued that had it been successful, the campaign would have shortened World War I by two years and spared millions of lives.

Turkish accounts say a forcing of the straits allowing the allies to supply Russia might have prevented that country's economic and social collapse and averted the Russian revolution.

California addicts switch to synthetic drugs

By Ronald Clarke

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Chemists in sophisticated underground laboratories in California are creating a new breed of synthetic drugs dubbed "designer drugs" which officials say could make the poppy fields of Asia and South America obsolete.

State health officials estimate that more than 70 people in California have died from overdoses of synthetic heroin, only one of the "designer drugs". In the past year and many more have suffered brain damage.

Police are frustrated because most "designer drugs" — the term is borrowed from the fashion world which uses it for highly styled clothes such as "designer jeans" — are legal. Dealers arrested in raids have been released when it was discovered the drugs they were carrying were not technically heroin but a legal variant made in a laboratory.

"This is a new phenomenon in California and we are very concerned that it is a growing trend," a spokeswoman for California's division of drug programmes said.

Twenty per cent of heroin addicts in California are already using the synthetic variety, the head of the division, Dr. Robert Robertson, estimated. The synthetic drugs are up to a thousand times more powerful than the real thing.

The man who coined the term "designer drugs", Gary Henderson, an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of California, believes that although the bulk of the synthetic drugs are being sold in California, they will eventually spread to New York and other eastern U.S. cities.

California police first came across "designer drugs" in 1979, when they found two addicts lying

dead on the outskirts of Los Angeles near samples of what they at first believed to be heroin.

Thirteen more users had died before forensic chemists identified the substance as a version of fentanyl, which is widely used as an anaesthetic in surgery.

The variant, up to 80 times more powerful than heroin, was declared illegal in 1981. But, by that time, a modified version, legal because of its different chemical structure, was being sold on the streets.

The small flow of the "designer drugs" has, in recent months,

shown signs of turning into a deluge, police said.

As soon as a variant is declared illegal, its molecular structure is changed slightly and the synthetic drug becomes legal again.

Only a few chemists are believed by police to be producing the "designer drugs" so far. Despite widespread police investigations, none of the secret laboratories has been discovered.

A number of addicts have increased their use of heroin to overcome the feelings of irritation caused by use of cocaine.

Some of the more wealthy add-

icts take a mixture of heroin and cocaine — known on the streets as a "belushi," after comedian John Belushi, who died after taking the two drugs.

Dr. Robertson said the synthetic drugs cost as much as natural drugs, but are more potent. Some addicts believe the synthetic drugs are less dangerous than the real thing and others simply do not know they are being sold synthetic versions, he said.

But some addicts who have injected themselves with the synthetic drugs have reported being unable to coordinate the use of

their limbs afterwards.

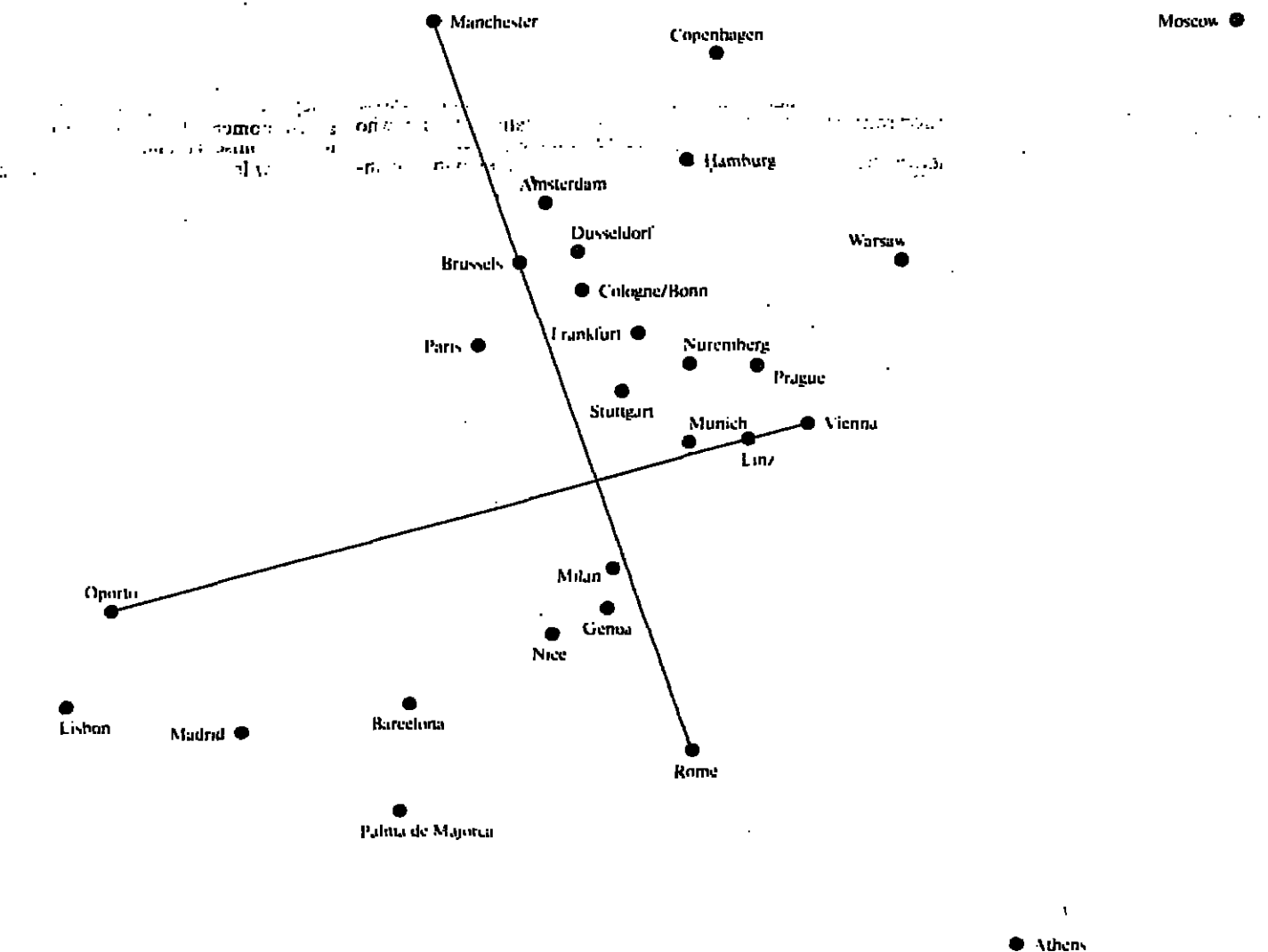
Two addicts were found dead with needles still in their arms. Others appeared to have advanced symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, doctors said.

In an attempt to learn more about "designer drugs", U.S. and California health officials have asked addicts to send them small samples anonymously.

"We have no ties to the police and the information we obtain will be given only to public health officials," said one of the doctors involved in the project, James Rutenber.

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Restoring sparkle to the diamond market

After a lull in the late 1970s, the bottom fell out of the diamond market, partly because of the lack of agreed standards of value. Paul Cheeswright, recently in Antwerp, reports on a new venture that seeks to revive the diamond market.

TOO MANY burnt fingers. Too many spurious guarantees. Too many diamonds in bank vaults waiting for buyers who never materialised. Memories of the 1970s investment diamond boom and its mid-1980 bust are sharp and often bitter.

The market remains depressed. There is no confidence. In 1980, the value of the investment diamond market was estimated at \$600 million. Now it is thought to be about \$100 million a year.

But the problems of the market now and the problems of the market then remain the same — lack of liquidity.

In the 1970s, this was overlooked as investors were led to believe that prices would just keep on rising. They had to believe that. If not, there would have been little point in buying: there is no income from a diamond, only the hope that when the time of sale arrives, there will be somebody ready to pay more than the original purchase price.

But because each diamond is different, each has an individual value. And because the valuation of a diamond has traditionally been a matter of personal scrutiny

— specialists peering at a stone through a special magnifying glass — estimates of price value fluctuate according to who is doing the peering.

Many people who were seduced into the diamond market during the 1970s could admire the stones, but could not define the value. They depend on the expertise and honesty of the seller. In retrospect it appears that both these attributes were often lacking.

When the speculative bubble on the market burst nearly five years ago, selling companies faded away, leaving investors with worthless guarantees and certificates of value which were only as good as a potential buyer thought them to be.

Certification is probably easier than valuation. It is possible, for example, to buy a diamond, and have the certificates department of the Diamond High Council in Antwerp place a laser inscription on the stone defining the nature of the diamond.

This laser technique is becoming available at laboratories in other diamond centres.

But there exists no market open to the general public for the pur-

chase and the sale of diamonds in the sense that it is possible to buy gold Krugerrands through banks.

To do the same sort of things for diamonds means narrowing the criteria of value — traditionally, based for polished diamonds on the four "C"s of caratage, colour, clarity and cut. Or it not narrowing them, compressing them in such a way that it becomes possible to create a market based on a simple series of prices. One way of doing this is soon to see the light of day in Antwerp through the medium of Real Diamond International, the corporate child of Mr. Izy Neuman, a life-long diamond man from a diamond family.

For years he has been working on a scheme to sell not single diamonds but a portfolio of ten. They would be sealed in a container, the size of a credit card, with a microchip to safeguard the breaking of the seal. Inside with the diamonds would be a certificate, on security paper, specifying the nature of the diamonds, each of which would have a laser inscription.

Mr. Neuman's plan is to offer seven types of portfolios, each containing stones of comparable size and quality, adding up in weight from one to five carats.

Prices are and will be quoted on the Reuter Monitor under five sizes of stone and four qualities, thus giving 20 quotations. Real

Diamond International would sell at the price being quoted on the day and guarantee to buy back at the price quotation of the day of re-sale.

What Mr. Neuman wants is a network of banks and financial institutions handling the sales in the same way as is done for Krugerrands. But here, some four months before Real Diamond International opens its doors for business, is the snag.

"The banks say they are interested, but to come back when the product is ready," he said. "It's a chicken and egg situation. Each bank is waiting for another to take the first step."

Real Diamond International needs start-up capital of \$7.2 million, which is coming from Dutch venture capital sources, but once under way Mr. Neuman plans a public flotation. His holding company will be based in Luxembourg and his diamond sales unit in offshore Bermuda.

Mr. Neuman believes that his scheme will provide an open market and an answer to the liquidity problem. He expects sales of \$125 million in the first year. "Through this system you not only gain the confidence of the public, you help the whole industry recover," he claims. — Financial Times news feature.

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Norway's Kristiansen shatters women's marathon world best

LONDON (R) — Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen shattered the women's world marathon best time Sunday when she won the London Marathon in two hours 21 minutes six seconds.

LONDON (R) — Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen shattered the women's world marathon best time Sunday when she won the London Marathon in two hours 21 minutes six seconds.

The previous record of 2:22:43 was set by Olympic Champion Joan Benoit of the United States in Boston on April 18, 1983.

Kristiansen set a blistering pace from the start on a cool, overcast day, ideal for marathon running.

At the halfway stage of the 42.195-km race Kristiansen was clocked at 1:10:10, well within world record pace.

At that point the Norwegian looked as if she could break the 2:20 barrier but she tired noticeably in the latter stages of the race and, grimacing with pain, fought her way grimly to the finish line.

Kristiansen won the London Marathon last year in 2:24:26, the second fastest women's time until Sunday, and was fourth in last year's Los Angeles Olympics.

The men's event was won by Britain's former world record holder Steve Jones.

Jones, who lost his world best to Portugal's Olympic Champion Carlos Lopes Saturday, clocked 2:08:16 ahead of compatriot Charlie Spedding and Alistair Hutton.

Kristiansen said later conditions had been perfect for a fast time and added she had received plenty of encouragement along the route.

She said she would rest for a month before turning to the track where she planned to concentrate on the 3,000 and 5,000 metres before returning to the marathon in October.

Asked if she thought she could break the 2:20 barrier Kristiansen smiled and replied: "it's possible".

Jones, who had a stirring tussle with Olympic bronze medallist Spedding before pulling away in the final few kilometres, said he had not been concerned with recapturing his world best from Lopes.

"The time was irrelevant," he

Senna claims his 1st Grand Prix victory

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Ayrton Senna of Brazil conquered his rivals and a rain-saturated track to win the Portuguese Grand Prix motor race in impressive style Sunday.

It was 25-year-old Senna's first World Championship triumph, achieved only two races into his second season in Formula One.

The victory in atrocious conditions also ended an eight-race unbeaten run set by McLaren pair Alain Prost and Niki Lauda.

Frenchman Prost, bidding for his fourth consecutive victory,

said: "The important point was to win the race."

Kristiansen, who had been forced to do much of her recent training on a treadmill in her kitchen because of the severity of the Norwegian winter, turned to marathon running in 1977.

A former cross-country skier, she finished second, third and fifth in consecutive New York marathons and won a bronze medal in the 1982 European Championships.

Kristiansen, 28, emerged finally from the shadow of her illustrious compatriot Grete Waitz, winner of the women's marathon in the inaugural World Championships, last year.

The stocky Norwegian, with her distinctive high-shouldered gait, won the Houston Marathon in January.

Cycling competition scheduled for April 28

AMMAN (Petra) — An international cycling competition will be held in Jordan on April 28th in which local, Arab and foreign teams are expected to take part.

The event to be organised by the Tarf Cycling Club will include individual and team races, according to Jihad Saqr, the club's president.

He said the teams' competition will be for 100 kilometres and will take a four-course route along the Queen Alia International Airport, starting from the airport highway's bridge, going towards the airport's bridge, Madaba Bridge, Na'our Bridge and returning to starting point.

The individual cycling competition will be for 140 kilometres starting from the University of Jordan, going towards Jubelha, along the Yajouz road to 'Awajan on the Zarqa Highway back to the Sports City Wadi Shu'eb, Zarqa, The Institute, Salt, Zay Circle, Al 'Arida road, Al Salt junction, Al Hummar crossroads, Fuheis, Al Hashimieh, Sweileh and the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering.

The top three in each event will be presented with silver trophies and the top ten will receive medals.

Luton shocks United

LONDON (R) — Manchester United's faint hopes of catching runaway English first division soccer leaders Everton dimmed even further Sunday when they were beaten 2-1 at Luton.

A last minute goal by Mick Harford, who had earlier converted a penalty to give Luton a 68th minute lead, earned the home side three valuable points in their bid to escape relegation.

United, who were indebted to England goalkeeper Gary Bailey

for two outstanding saves in the first half, fell behind when Bailey became the villain of the piece by bringing down Brian Stein in the penalty box.

But they looked like earning at least a point and cutting Everton's lead in the title race to nine points when Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside equalised three minutes later. But Luton, beaten F.A. Cup semi-finalists, were not to be denied.

Lendl crushes McEnroe

TOKYO (R) — French Open Champion Ivan Lendl inflicted a crushing 6-4, 6-2 defeat on John McEnroe in the final of the \$250,000 Tokyo exhibition tennis tournament Sunday.

A sadly-out-of-touch McEnroe

was never in contention from 4-4 in the first set and failed to hold his serve again in the match after Lendl broke through in the ninth game.

And although McEnroe twice captured his opponent's service in reply, it was not enough to stop Lendl.

Lloyd, Garrison to meet in WTA final

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (R) — Top-seeded American Chris Evert Lloyd rallied from a one-set deficit to defeat third-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 Saturday to advance to the finals of the \$250,000 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Championships.

Lloyd's opponent will be 21-year-old American Zina Garrison, who scored her biggest professional victory with a 7-5, 6-4 upset of second-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia.

Lloyd, reaching the WTA finals for the fifth straight year, almost wilted in the afternoon heat. She dropped the last three games to lose the first set and was a point away from falling behind 3-0 in the third set.

But the 30-year-old American hit a lob winner and proceeded to break Kohde-Kilsch's serve to reach 2-1.

She won the next five games to close out the match, her second three set duel in less than 24 hours.

Lloyd battled 14-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina for two hours Friday night before pulling out a 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 victory.

"I was exhausted when I got home Friday night," Lloyd said. "I'm sure earning my money this week. Against Claudia I felt a little more energetic in the third set than I did in the first two."

Garrison, seeded fourth, had plenty of energy for her match with Mandlikova, continuously chasing down the Czech's drop shots and returning them for cross court winners.

"I think she's the fastest player

on the tour, even faster than Martina (Navratilova)," Mandlikova said.

The Garrison-Mandlikova match was even at 5-5 in the first set, but Garrison broke through in the 11th game by chasing down a backhand and hitting a passing shot to gain a break point. Mandlikova then double-faulted to go down 6-5 and Garrison held serve in the next game to take the set.

Garrison, who had beaten Mandlikova in only one of six previous meetings, gained a crucial break in the seventh game of the second set to go up 4-3 and held serve to close out the match.

Garrison has played Evert Lloyd on five previous occasions. But Garrison has failed to win even one set in any of their previous matches.

Monaco to stage sports extravaganza in May

By Derek Parr
Reporter

PARIS — Monte Carlo will become the temporary sports capital of the world next month when a parade of Olympic athletics and swimming champions and the Formula One Grand Prix circus all hit town in the space of 16 days.

The extravaganza opens on May 11-12 when the United States, West Germany, France and Italy compete in a four-nation men's athletics meeting in the new Louis II stadium — with the possible participation of the 'King of the Track', Carl Lewis.

One week later on May 19, the streets of Monte Carlo will reverberate to the roar of Formula One engines as the Monaco Grand Prix, restored to the motor-racing calendar after months of wrangling and litigation, gets under way.

The fiesta will then come to a fitting climax on May 25-26 with a 16-nation swimming international, featuring a clutch of Olympic champions and world record-holders from East and West.

Lewis' presence in Monte Carlo would add extra magic to the gathering and Prince Albert, son and heir of Prince Rainier, took the opportunity to contact him while in the U.S. this month, Athletics Federation Vice-President Bernard Fautrier said.

Fautrier said Lewis had not committed himself either way, adding: "We can't say he will definitely come, but he was not negative."

The U.S. have announced 26 entries, including Olympic discus bronze medallist John Powell and hurdlers Tonie Campbell and Tranel Hawkins.

The Italian challenge will be led by Alberto Cova, the Olympic world and European champion over 10,000 metres, shot-putter Alessandro Andrei, who also struck gold in Los Angeles, and long jump bronze medallist Giovanni Evangelisti.

Olympic high jump champion Dietmar Moegenburg and 400 metres hurdles bronze medallist Harald Schmid feature in a West German team, whose line-up also includes Thomas Wessinghage, Erwin Skamrah and Christian Haas.

The swimming competition boasts the participation of 46 Olympic finalists, including seven gold, nine silver and five bronze

medallists. Olympic champions include American freestylers Mary Wayte, Tiffany Cohen and Mike O'Brien and Dutch backstrokeer Jolanda de Rover.

East Germany's eight-strong entry includes Ute Geweniger and Cornelia Sirch, respectively 200 metres backstroke and 200 metres individual medley world record-holders.

There will be relief all round when the Formula One Grand Prix cars finally line-up on the starting grid in Monte Carlo.

Michel Boeri, President of the Monaco Automobile Club, has spent much of the last 12 months embroiled in a bitter dispute over television rights with the sports ruling body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), which threatened this year's race. The two sides were reconciled only two months ago, but Boeri said arrangements for the 43rd Monaco Grand Prix were progressing well.

Canada beats Guatemala in World Cup qualifier

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — Dale Mitchell scored two goals Saturday to lead Canada to a 2-1 victory over Guatemala in the second qualifying round for the 1986 World Cup.

After controlling play almost from the kickoff, Canada scored at 22 minutes and two seconds when Mitchell fielded a long kick by Canadian goalkeeper Paul Dolan, beat one defender and drilled the ball past Guatemalan goalkeeper Hermegildo Pepe Castro.

At 43:05 Mitchell converted a cross by veteran defender Bruce Wilson after Ian 'Bridge' and Randy Samuel headed the ball into the goal area. By the time Mitchell had the ball on his boot, Castro was hopelessly out of position.

Mitchell was able to play with the national team Saturday only because his Tacoma stars did not reach the finals of the major indoor soccer league.

WATER AUTHORITY CONTRACTS OF WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR GREATER AMMAN

1. The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been pre-qualified as general and first and second class water and sewerage contractors and general class roads and buildings contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the sewerage network, mains, sub-mains and house connections in greater Amman as follows:

- 97/85 Contract T-2 consists of 35 Km of concrete and ductile pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm in Tabarbour.
- 98/85 Contract BQ-S2 consists of 33 Km of concrete and ductile ranging in size from 150 mm to 300 mm in Baqa Camp, and Abou-Nussier.
- 99/85 Contract SH-S2 consists of 31 Km of concrete and ductile pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to Schneller Camp.
- 100/85 Contract SW-S2 consists of 36 Km of concrete and ductile pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm in Sweileh-Safout-Ain Al Basha.
- 101/85 Contract KW-S2 consists of 34 Km of concrete and ductile pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm in Kelda, Umel-Sommaq.

2. A prebid conference will be held on Sunday 12 May, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.

3. On May 12, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope or in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instruction to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

4. The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Sat. 8 June 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.

5. Contract documents may be examined and purchased from the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box (2412)
Amman, Jordan
Telephone 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 150 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 75 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in the bank cheque.

Eng. M.S. Keilani
President
Water Authority

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WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN ANNOUNCEMENT REBIDDING ON CONTRACTS 70/85 AND 72/85

Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been pre-qualified as general, first, and second class water and sewerage contractors, and general class roads and buildings contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of sewerage net work, mains, sub-mains, and house connection, in greater Amman as follows:

- 1- Contract 70/85 supply and construction of about 26 Km of mains, submains, and house connection ranging in dia. from 150 to 300 mm in lower Wadi Seer Area.
- 2- Contract 72/85 supply and construction of about 19 Km of mains, submains, and house connection ranging in dia. from 150 to 500 mm in Schneller Camp.

Contracts documents are available at the Water Authority's main office in Amman. The cost of the first copy is JD 150 for each contract, and JD 75 for any additional copy non-refundable. Bids are due no later than Tuesday 7/5/1985 at 12 noon Jordan local time.

Eng. M.S. Keilani
President
Water Authority

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Credit cards outgrow parents

LONDON — To the world at large, banks and credit card companies look like close allies, cross-selling, as they do, each others' products, and attacking similar markets. But there is an uneasy alliance, as a couple of recent eruptions of a long-simmering row have shown.

Last month, Dr. Eckart van Hooven, one of the top executives at Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, delivered a sharp attack on American Express, saying that banks which dealt with it were like foolish Mercedes salesmen riding in Opels.

More lately, at a gathering of EFMA, the bank marketing organisation in the genteel Swiss lakeside resort of Montreux, several bankers launched into Visa, MasterCard and American Express, accusing them of being "Trojan horses" and "the enemy within". Why do feelings run so high?

Quite simply bankers who once rushed to sell these organisations' cards and travellers cheques now see them becoming powerful competitors.

Mr. Michael Brocksom, managing director of Thomas Cook Financial Services, the Midland Bank subsidiary and travellers cheque issuer which has been drawn into the controversy, describes it as "creeping credit card disease".

"We believe that many banks risk cutting their own throats by allowing credit card companies to 'muscle in' on their most prized customers — their own account holders," he says, summing up the view held by an increasing number

of bankers.

This is all highly ironical, since credit card companies like Visa and MasterCard are owned by the banks which issue the cards. But bankers complain that card organisations are now so huge that they have taken on a life of their own. They lump them together with other suppliers of banking products like American Express, who, they say, are getting uncomfortably close to their own markets, and trying to steal their precious client lists.

American Express seen as gravest threat

American Express, with its large credit card and travellers cheque business and — now — a growing international network of cash dispensers, is seen as the gravest threat. The fact that the U.S. group includes a stockbroker, Shearson, and an upmarket bank, Trade Development Bank, only adds to its image of a wolf ravens for wealthy clients.

The American Express (AMEN) Gold Card is seen as especially ominous by some bankers. This card is usually issued only to banks to their most creditworthy customers and backed by a bank line of credit. This may be a fine service to offer, but it hands Amex a top quality client list on a plate. Bankers have been worried about this, but Amex has promised that it will not use Gold Cardholder lists to tout for other business.

As the card companies move into travellers cheques, cash dis-

pensers and other financial services under their highly aggressive managements, bankers have also become increasingly nervous of being swamped by their own creations. Of becoming known simply as a "Visa bank" or a "Master Card bank", hence their insistence on having their own name placed prominently on the credit cards they issue.

Visa, MasterCard and Amex deny that they have predatory intentions, or aim to grab the banks' retail deposits, which is one of the bankers' greatest fears.

Mr. James Larkin, the president of American Express European Travel Service company, said in response to the battering he received at Montreux: "It is foolish to think that any foreign financial services company is ever going to be able to compete with the thousands of branches that local banks have in Europe or elsewhere."

Visa earned black points

Visa earned black points with many bankers for making its card available to the pioneering Cash Management Account offered by Merrill Lynch. The large Wall Street retail broker firm occupies the same place in many bankers' minds as American Express: The arch non-bank competitor.

But Mr. Charles Russell, Visa's president, claims that bankers' worries are based on a "misconception" as to what credit card companies are about. "We only act as agents, never as principals," he says.

Master Card, under its president Mr. Russell Hogg, has tried to appease bankers by stressing that it is an association of bank-owned card companies like Access in the U.K. and Eurocard on the continent. So it cannot trample on its owners' best interests.

The dispute is complicated by nationalistic overtones: Europeans resisting the incursions of the U.S. dominated groups, which is what both Visa and MasterCard essentially are. The strength of Dr. Van Hooven's feelings is also ascribed to some extent to the special circumstances of the German market, where banks feel highly vulnerable to non-bank competition of all kinds.

But both sides also know that they cannot rupture the bonds that link them. Banks need to have products that people will buy, and experience has shown that customers prefer credit cards and travellers cheques with big names on them.

"We've got past the point of thinking that we must have our own name on everything," said a senior European banker at Montreux, who believes many of his colleagues' fears are overdone.

American Express also needs the banks as outlets for its goods and services, and is keen to extend its reach through co-operation. It is currently trying to enlarge its international cash machine network through sharing arrangements with continental banks, so it has to tread carefully too. The same goes for the card companies which need the banks as much as the banks need the companies.

— Financial Times news feature.

Saudis tighten belts as oil revenues decline

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia is tightening its belt as it continues to adjust to a situation in which its oil production, still the source of nearly all its revenue, is running at a level only one-third of what it was five years ago, with average per barrel income down to \$25 compared with \$31-\$32 three years ago.

The budget published recently is the first since the price explosion of 1973-74 to project lower spending than actual disbursements in the previous year. By the standards of the developing world, the austerity may be modest, but for the kingdom the process of adjustment is not without pain.

Among Saudi and foreign businessmen in the kingdom there is a mood of concern, though not in any sense depression. The kingdom, after all, has a population of only 8 million.

Even so, the Saudi market is not nearly as easy and profitable as it used to be and there is little prospect of its improving for the rest of this decade.

In the last year, there have been delays in the government paying contractors, though recently this situation has improved. Many small and inefficient Saudi businesses have ceased to operate. There have been one or two serious collapses and more are expected.

Until this budget the government's line in public was that business would continue as usual, financed by modest drawings on the kingdom's massive financial reserves. Now it is admitting that

times are difficult.

As King Fahd put it in his budget statement: "It is natural that we have to adapt ourselves in a constructive way to the new circumstances."

The new budget, which runs from March 22 to March 12 next year, precisely balances revenues and expenditure at riyals 200 billion (\$56 billion). It involves the government increasing revenue by about \$10 billion and cutting spending by nearly \$4 billion.

In practice, on both the spending and revenue sides, the budget is rather optimistic, though less so than the budgets for the last two years.

It is thought that the government should not find it too difficult to cut expenditure, given that the saving needed is only \$4 billion. Efforts are already being made to reduce administrative spending by setting a limit on the amount of overtime government employees may work and restricting their official foreign travel to two months a year.

In the last 12 months, subsidies have been reduced on certain commodities, water, electricity and petrol, albeit by small amounts. Last October, a big cut was announced

in the price that the government will pay wheat farmers for this summer's harvest. This alone should save more than \$500 million.

Government plans more cuts in subsidies bill

The government says its intention is to make further cuts in its enormous subsidy bill and there seems to be ample scope for it doing so. At present, subsidies account for 80 to 90 per cent of the real cost of water and electricity supplies. Petrol is still 50 cents a gallon.

Whether these subsidies are cut further will depend on decisions still to be taken by the king.

King Fahd may find it extremely difficult to bring himself to act on the issue. He is a kind man who hates taking awkward decisions and his instinct will be that whatever harsh measures might be suggested by the financial situation, the years of prosperity ought to be allowed to continue for the Saudi people for a bit longer.

Most probably, if the government finds its spending running above target, it will again delay contractors' payments and postpone projects. This is despite the fact that it is said this year that development outlays should increase at the expense of current spending, which seems to have been rising out of control.

The more serious problem concerns the revenue side of the bud-

get, of which the government gives no breakdown.

Petromin, Aramco may help

Given the state of the oil market, it is difficult to see Saudi Arabia receiving more than \$27 billion to \$29 billion for oil and natural gas sales. Investment income and current domestic revenues can hardly be above \$9 billion and \$7 billion respectively.

To supplement these sums, it is thought that the government is intending to demand some \$3 billion of liquid assets built up over the years by Petromin, the state oil company, and Aramco, the company that runs Saudi oil production.

Together, these forces give a total plausible revenue of about \$46 billion to \$48 billion, which suggests that, despite its intentions, the state will have to draw some \$8 billion to \$10 billion from its reserves.

The kingdom has not published a figure for its reserves since last August, but they are thought to stand at present at about \$100 billion to \$110 billion.

Whether the government will admit that it is drawing on its reserves if it has to do so is a different matter. In the year just ended, it predicted drawings of \$13 billion and has announced actual drawings of exactly this amount.

In reality, it is thought that its drawings amounted to \$20 billion



King Fahd

and that this figure has been disguised by creative accounting. For Saudi businessmen it is important that this year the government is intending to balance the budget. The rundown of reserves last year was widely known and was felt to be happening at too fast a rate.

So far, few Saudis have subjected the budget to any rigorous analysis and no details or critical unofficial comment are ever published in the kingdom's newspapers or magazines. The tendency has been for most people to greet with relief the news that the kingdom will be receiving \$56 billion of revenue.

The more sophisticated accept that the figures are optimistic, but they say that, if the government makes proper economies, they see no reason why a country of 8 million people should not run happily on just \$40 billion a year — Financial Times news feature.

Italians remain firmly under exchange controls

ROME — The evening flight had left London for Rome nearly an hour late. The passengers on the Airbus were just getting over their irritation at the delay when the crew started handing out forms.

Everyone, they said, must write down on them all their foreign currency and travellers cheques, and then get the form stamped by Italian customs when they arrived at the airport.

The bewildered tourists and businessmen set to work, counting out their banknotes and wondering just what sort of country they were going to. But when they reached Fiumicino Airport they found the customs men had already gone home. So too had the taxi drivers.

If there is one thing that differentiates Italy from most other industrial countries it is its very tight foreign exchange controls. The passengers on that flight were unlucky to be subjected to a ritual that has generally been abandoned. But for Italians the restrictions are drastic and the penalties for breaching them are ferocious.

Whereas an Englishman has since 1979 been able to export as much capital as he likes, an Italian has to get official permission for almost any transaction. He may not maintain a bank account abroad except for authorised business use. He may not own property abroad unless he can prove that he needs it for work.

If he has a credit card he may use it abroad only for buying "tourist services" — which do not in-

clude shopping — and if he needs it for business use the amount of foreign exchange he can spend is fixed in advance with the authorities.

If an Italian wants to buy shares in a foreign company he has to make a non-interest-bearing deposit equivalent to 40 per cent (until recently 50 per cent) of the value of the investment.

Penalties are severe

What's more, the penalties for breaking the rules are severe. Anyone who exports or holds abroad Lire 5 million (\$2,500) risks going to prison for up to six years.

Italy has a long history of exchange controls. "It is almost a cultural attitude," says one official. "It's a belief that you can control anything. In particular the flow of money. In practice you can't."

Mussolini instituted exchange controls before the war and they have remained in some form ever since. They were relaxed in the late 1950s and 1960s when the balance of payments was mostly healthy and the lira was strong. But in the 1970s they were tightened again as the oil crisis struck.

In 1976, a year in which the lira was devalued three times, foreign reserves dropped at one point to only \$500 million and there was widespread fear that the Communists would sweep to power. The rules were drastically tightened.

The rich were getting their money out as best they could. Rowing boats took in cash ac-

ross the lakes to Switzerland, and shady deals were devised to get capital out by means of share purchase and insurance swindles.

An anxious parliament hustled onto the statute books the now notorious law 159 of 1976. It made it a criminal offence either to send or to hold abroad any sum above L5 million, without permission. It ordained that every foreign exchange transaction was illegal except for those specifically approved by the government.

It also required Italians who owned property abroad to sell it and bring the proceeds back to Italy — in her recent book Susanna Agnelli, sister of Sig Gianni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat, tells how she had to sell up her apartment in New York and return to Italy.

The law even made it the responsibility of banks to determine whether any commercial transactions with foreign companies were conducted at the right price and were free of over-invoicing — putting in a higher bill so that the importer could get foreign exchange out of the country.

"It was an impossible responsibility to put on the banks — how could they carry it out without going down to the warehouse and looking round?" asks Sig Riccardo Dalla Vedova, a lawyer campaigning for reform of the currency laws.

People went to prison under the law and even foreigners who had tangled with it were prosecuted — Swiss bankers for example. Yet the law did not, in most people's

view, do much good. An import deposit scheme and the immense resilience of the Italian economy were more effective in bringing the balance of payments back into surplus.

Dr. Lamberto Dini, deputy governor of the Bank of Italy, reflecting recently on the various measures applied in the 1970s said that they "showed the disadvantages and limits of strategies based on exchange restrictions."

Since then the balance of payments has passed through another period of crisis and become reasonably healthy again. But perhaps more important, the psychological climate has completely changed. Italians are no longer desperate to get all their money out of the country. On the contrary in the last two or three years they have been repatriating much in order to finance their businesses and avoid interest rates.

The professional currency smugglers of the north have had to turn to burglary to make a living.

Italy's foreign currency reserves are growing and foreign savers and companies are investing in Italian companies — the case for keeping draconian foreign exchange rules is weak, and, as Dr. Dini admitted in his speech, the rules may be in conflict with the Treaty of Rome — a point the European Commission has emphasised to the Italian government.

Even so progress on unshackling Italians from exchange controls has so far been small. Italy, said Dr. Dini, ought to aim

for the complete liberalisation of capital movements, but he added: "The still fragile state of the balance of payments, as well as the potential demand for funds outside of the country which has built up over the years of restriction, make us reject the risks of total liberalisation in the short term."

Last year, however, the ministry of foreign trade slackened the restrictions on tourist spending abroad, and the curbs on Italians making foreign investments and lengthened the time businesses are allowed to hold foreign exchange in Italy before having to turn it over to the authorities.

The government has, however, presented to parliament a bill to reform the notorious Law 159. It raises from L5 million to L100 million the level at which a currency offence begins to carry a prison sentence instead of a fine, and reverses the much criticised principle of the law under which everything is illegal except what the government specifically permits.

But the law has still not been approved by parliament, despite having been presented in late 1983. It has been held up by Communist opposition, though the party insists that it does not oppose the principle of the measure, only certain details.

But the suspicion larks that the party instinctively favours tight controls on capital movements. "Their opposition has held up this bill," says Sig Dalla Vedova, "they may not call that obstruction but I do." — Financial Times news feature.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: During the daytime there can be a real battle over financial holdings or where some possessions are concerned, or where antagonism exists between two or more persons.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid a confrontation today over money matters, and then tonight you can get a clear picture of the whole situation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You and your partner are both stubborn over some issue today, so say that you will sleep on it before coming to a definite decision.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You find it very difficult to get a co-worker to cooperate today, so handle your job accurately and forget about others.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't argue with a good friend, and you will save time and energy and save the friendship.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A bigwig and a family tie could argue during the daytime but keep out of it, and it will soon blow over.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't take advice from outsiders where routine work is concerned, but try to improve them sensibly by yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get busy and pay your pressing bills, and don't find fault where there is none. Improve your credit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some responsibility of long standing has you so concerned that you could fail to handle some emergency, so cheer up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't try to do more work than you can handle just to get out of a temporary bind or you could ruin your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't enter into an argument between a family tie and a good friend, or you could lose them both.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be certain to handle obligations at home before you get out into the business world. Try to please a family tie.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) There are important meetings to attend even though you may have to leave your work for a while.

THE Daily Crossword

by James and Phyllis Barrick

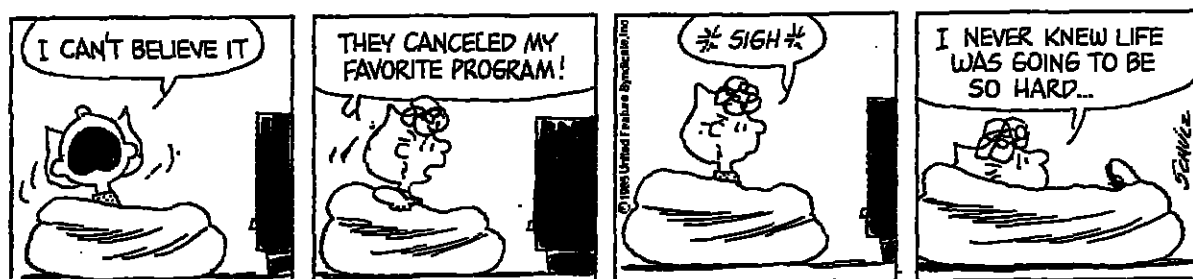
ACROSS

- House Sp.
- Hill
- Goedelic language
- Urban city
- Ridge
- the line (confidential)
- Like a dolly
- Watch part
- Ancient coin
- Flying saucer
- Explorer's ship
- Course
- Grenpus
- Classified items
- Kind of statesman
- Heading guidance
- Lilla or Arthur
- Disrespectful
- Time
- Ramble
- Letter grade
- Latin American
- Family mem.
- Square pillar
- Foamy stuff
- Part of Can.
- de la Plata
- culpa
- Works by
- Horses
- Neither good nor bad
- Goaster
- Fingering
- Home's cousin
- London gallery
- Light
- More rational
- Great Barrier
- Island
- Troubles
- Says further
- Make coffee

DOWN

- Period relative
- Lawrence of —
- Like a run-
- Digestive enzyme
- A rubbing out
- Wroth
- Military VIP
- WWII abbr.
- Righteous
- Horse of a certain color
- Broadest
- Whitpool
- Approve
- Patriotic org.
- Tip
- Interior
- Direction
- Put away
- Dr. O's
- Spiritual body
- Cry of triumph
- Shore
- Europe
- Kind of raid
- Mimics
- Shingled area
- Tantalized
- Loobers
- Now irascibly
- Write Fleming
- Cookout fare
- Place in Piedmont
- Food and
- Eyes comb. form
- Farm sound

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

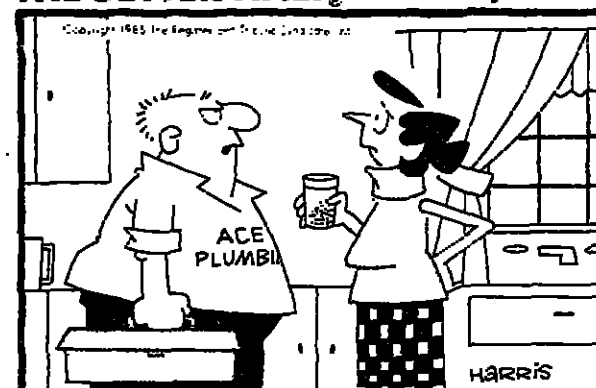


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Don't think of it as an incurable plumbing problem. Think of it as 'high-fiber' water."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COUFS

LAKBY

DORRIT

YALWEE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: YOUR

Yesterday's Jumble: AZURE BERET WALRUS ORIGIN

Answer: Some people might rise higher if they'd learn to do this — RISE EARLIER

Reagan, saying Soviets in Nicaraguan battlezones, urges support for rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said Soviet military personnel are operating in Nicaraguan battlezones and he urged Americans to push Congress to pass his \$14 million aid plan for anti-Sandinista rebels.

In his weekly radio address, Mr. Reagan dismissed an alternative aid plan for Nicaragua proposed by opposition Democrats in the House of Representatives, saying it was not a compromise but a "shameful surrender" to Communism.

But Representative Jim Jones of Oklahoma, in the Democrats' response, said the alternative was a middle road plan that "offers clear incentives for all sides to move toward peace."

"Our proposal will move diplomatic pressure for peace to the front burner and move military pressure to the back burner but keep both on the stove," the moderate Democrat said.

Mr. Reagan faces serious defeat in a vote of Congress next week on his policy of military support for rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government.

As a result, he has now agreed to use the funds as humanitarian assistance in 1985 and is seeking to compromise with Republican and Democratic Senate leaders.

"We believe we can reach bipartisan agreement with the Senate that would call for a ceasefire and negotiations, make clear the Sandinistas are the problem and authorize humanitarian aid to the Contras," as the rebels are called, a senior White House official told Reuters.

Mr. Reagan and his Republican allies are intent on giving the aid directly to the Contras, who were created by the CIA in 1981 and have received \$80 million in U.S. funds.

The alternative offered by opposition house Democrats would channel \$10 million in humanitarian aid to the Red Cross and U.N. High Commission for Refugees outside Nicaragua and \$4 million to Panama, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia to implement a regional peace plan.

It provides that Congress could give Nicaragua economic aid if Congress decides progress is being made toward peace. Sponsors said the plan left open the possibility for Mr. Reagan to

seek military aid for the rebels when the 1986 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

A major force behind the alternative, Mr. Jones said: "Let there be no mistake we Democrats oppose the Sandinista government's repression of freedoms, its military ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union and its efforts to export unrest and war to its neighbours."

Mr. Reagan said the Democratic proposal "would turn the democratic resistance into homeless refugees" by encouraging the Contras to leave Nicaragua and "aid the Soviet-Cuban-Sandinista effort to get rid of the democratic resistance."

He said the United States had now "confirmed the presence of Russian military personnel in Nicaraguan battlezones."

He also charged that since Congress ended military aid to the Contras last October Moscow and its allies have provided the Sandinistas with vastly increased weaponry to "wipe out the democratic forces while they are most vulnerable."

Of next week's congressional vote, Mr. Reagan said: "Few votes will ever be so important to the survival of democracy in Latin America. Few votes will ever be so important to the national security of the United States."



Prince Charles and Princess Diana of Wales photographed by Lord Snowdon to mark the visit of the couple to Italy from April 19 to May 5. (AP wirephoto).

Prince Charles' uncle was Nazi, reports say

LONDON (R) — An uncle of Prince Charles, future King of England, was a general in Hitler's SS, according to British newspaper reports Sunday.

The reports follow the disclosure that the father of Princess Michael, married to Queen Elizabeth's first cousin, was a long-term member of both the SS and the Nazi Party.

The uncle, Prince Christoph of Hesse, married the sister of Prince Philip, the Queen's husband, according to reports in the Sunday Times and the Mail on Sunday newspapers.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment. The Sunday Times said he was a brigadier-general in the SS and a close aide of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS and the Gestapo. But it said the British tie was by marriage, not blood.

The revelation about Princess Michael's father last week provoked a genealogical chase among Britain's national press to find more Nazi links with the British Royal Family.

As commentators pointed out, it should not be difficult as the entire family is of German descent. The Mail quoted Christoph's son, Prince Rainer, as saying: "The Queen and the Royal Family know about the SS connections. We have always been friends with our British cousins."

Rainer, 46, said his family and the British Royal Family had had no contact for a long time after World War II because of the sensitive situation.

"But my mother and the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip) are brother and sister so there are no secrets between them," the Mail quoted him as saying.

The Prince said his father was purely an "honorary member" of the SS and had written to his wife "expressing doubts about the whole development of Nazi Germany" shortly before his death on active service in 1943.

The Sunday Times said Christoph headed a secret eavesdropping unit which gathered information to help Hitler plan the invasion of Czechoslovakia and to deceive British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain at the Munich summit of 1938.

Last December, according to Mail report, Prince Charles and Prince Philip attended a 70th birthday party for Princess Sophie, Christoph's widow and Philip's sister.

Two other newspapers, meanwhile, reported that documents received by Buckingham Palace from Germany had cleared Princess Michael's father, Baron Gunther von Reibnitz, of any war crimes.

The Princess went on nationwide television last week to tell of her "deep shame" when she learned of her father's SS past.

Meanwhile Left-wing demonstrators in Milan, Italy, greeted the Prince and Princess of Wales when they arrived to see an opera Saturday night.

A small group waved placards asking: "Lady Di and Charles, have you ever been inside a coal mine?" — referring to a year-long British miners' strike which ended last month.

Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, and his wife Princess Diana went to La Scala Opera house to see Puccini's "Turandot."

Another group of protesters, who had recently been evicted from municipal housing in Milan, waved a sign in English reading: "House, work, not dole."

But most of the 2,000 people waiting outside the opera house to see the couple on their first big public engagement of a 17-day official tour were in festive mood.

The Prince and Princess — who wore a shocking-pink chiffon evening dress — shared the rarely-occupied royal box at La Scala with the Mayor of Milan, Carlo Tognoli.

2nd bomb in two days explodes in Brussels

BRUSSELS (R) — The second bomb in two days exploded in Brussels Sunday and responsibility was claimed by the group that said it set off Saturday's blast at the headquarters of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly.

The radio said there were no casualties in Sunday's explosion at the offices of the electronics firm AEG in the residential suburb of Uccle.

But it said heavy damage was caused and a claim of responsibility by the Revolutionary Front for Proletarian Action (FRAP) was painted on the side of the building.

The attack destroyed archives in the four-storey, unoccupied offices, wrecked a car and shattered windows.

Philippe Deshormes, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Assembly, had said Saturday that more attacks could be expected.

A senior Belgian Interior Ministry official said it was impossible to protect all possible targets for bomb attacks in Brussels.

Saturday's bomb blast ended a three-month lull in anti-NATO guerrilla attacks in Brussels.

Police were Sunday checking for clues to the guerrilla bombing of the North Atlantic Assembly, whose members are parliamentarians from NATO's 16 member states.

Assembly staff were cleaning up wrecked archives and other damage and said police had stepped up security at the premises, in the fashionable Petit Sablon area of central Brussels.

Police are trying to establish whether the attack is the work of the people who last year began an anti-NATO bombing campaign against military and political targets in Belgium under the name of the Fighting Communist Cells (CCC).

Their last attack three months ago was a car bomb explosion outside a U.S. army community centre in Brussels.

A few occupants of nearby apartments suffered shock or scratches from the force of Saturday's blast which blew out windows and wrecked a car parked near a rear window of the assembly building where the bomb had been placed.

The North Atlantic Assembly is independent of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), but acts as a sort of parliamentary support group for the alliance in member states and produces reports on defence-related topics.

A bomb threat by the CCC forced the evacuation of the conference hall at the assembly's last plenary session in Brussels last November. The next session is due in Stuttgart, West Germany, on May 17-20.

China appoints new ambassador to U.S.

PEKING (AP) — China announced Sunday the appointment of veteran diplomat Han Xu as its next ambassador to the United States.

The official Xinhua News Agency identified Mr. Han as the "newly appointed" Chinese ambassador to Washington in an article on an interview he gave to the weekly "outlook" magazine.

The change was expected but had not been previously announced by Peking.

Mr. Han was a former vice foreign minister and deputy head of China's liaison office in Washington from 1973 to 1979 before the two nations established diplomatic relations. He succeeds Mr. Zhang Wenjin, 70, who has held the post since December 1982.

China's first ambassador to Washington was Mr. Chai Zemin. Xinhua gave no other details about the change or Mr. Han's background.

Mr. Han is known to diplomats as a fluent English speaker who ran the American Department of the Foreign Ministry from 1979 to 1982. He was a member of the Chinese delegation to the 1973 Vietnam conference in Paris and served as a counselor at the Chinese embassy in Moscow in 1964-65.

The "outlook" interview quoted him as saying he has made

many American friends over the past decade.

"The great American people and their beautiful land have left a deep impression on me. I appreciate the American people's practical spirit and their warmth and frankness," he said.

He said Sino-U.S. relations have improved since the exchange of visits by President Ronald Reagan and Premier Zhao Ziyang one year ago.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian was quoted Sunday as saying China wants to normalise relations with Indonesia.

Mr. Wu heads the Chinese delegation to Wednesday's ceremony in Bandung, Indonesia, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 29-nation Bandung Conference that foreshadowed the Non-Aligned Movement.

Indonesia suspended diplomatic relations with China in 1967 because of Peking's alleged support for a communist coup attempt.

But the two nations announced a resumption of direct trade late last year and an Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation is scheduled to visit Peking at the end of April.

Mr. Wu was interviewed in the weekly "outlook" (Liaowang) magazine, as reported Sunday by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Taiwan rejects talks with China over detained ship

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will not negotiate with Peking over a freighter which it says was detained by China after a collision with Chinese fishing boats in the Taiwan Strait, a senior official told reporters Sunday.

The official from the Communications Ministry said government leaders were holding emergency talks over the incident between the two ideological enemies.

He said Taiwan's Nationalist government had decided not to initiate any negotiations with Peking although it was concerned over the fate of the 13 crew.

The ministry said Saturday that the 498-ton Ching Hung collided on Thursday night with a group of Chinese fishing boats in the narrow strait which separates Taiwan from the mainland. One of the Chinese vessels was sunk, a fisherman was killed and eight were missing.

The freighter was surrounded by the fishing boats and taken to the Chinese port of Xiamen, the ministry said.

Government sources here told Reuters that Defence and Foreign Ministry officials were investigating how the collision occurred in a sensitive military area. They said the Nationalists would probably ask the International Red Cross to secure the release of the ship and its crew.

The sources said Taiwan did not wish to give the Chinese an excuse to initiate direct contacts between the two sides.

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Veteran Kuwaiti diplomat dies

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwait Foreign Ministry on Sunday eulogised veteran diplomat Mohammed Zaid Al Harbashi who died in a New York hospital after a brief illness. He was 55. A Foreign Ministry statement said Mr. Harbashi died on Friday at Yale-New Haven hospital "after suffering from a chronic disease." He was survived by his wife and two sons. During the past three decades Mr. Harbashi served as Kuwait's ambassador to Japan, Italy and China. He was also named as director general of protocol at the Foreign Ministry here, a counsellor at the Kuwait embassy in London, and other posts here in Kuwait. The statement added that Mr. Harbashi was to be buried here Monday.

Christina Ferrare marries TV chief

LOS ANGELES (R) — Former model Christina Ferrare, who filed for divorce from carmaker John De Lorean a month after he was acquitted of drug charges, has married television executive Anthony Thomopoulos, family members said. She had been married for 11 years to De Lorean, 60, who was accused of seeking a \$24-million cocaine deal to save his failing sports car factory in Northern Ireland. The divorce became final on April 5. Ms. Ferrare, 34, spent every day of De Lorean's four-month trial in the courtroom. She wore an off-white wedding gown for her wedding to Thomopoulos, president of the broadcast group of the ABC TV network. The ceremony took place at the Beverly Hills home of Wallis Annenberg, daughter of former U.S. Ambassador to Britain Walter Annenberg. Still to be decided is the division of property with De Lorean. The De Loreans have an adopted son, Zachary, 13, and a daughter, Kathryn, six. Under the divorce agreement, Zachary lives with De Lorean and Kathryn with Ferrare.

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